

Economic Opportunity Grant Program Microbusiness Grants Round 1

Funded in part through a Grant from the California Office of the Small Business Advocate.

Program and Application Guide Revised 01/24/23



department of economic opportunity county of Los Angeles



A M E R I C A'S SBDC CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES NETWORK



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Microbusiness Grants

Round 1

Approximately 4,600 grants of \$2,500 will be administered to **qualified microbusinesses** throughout Los Angeles County, including City of Los Angeles, that face barriers to access to capital resources.



"*Qualified microbusiness*" means a **for-profit business entity** that meets and self-certifies, under penalty of perjury, all the following criteria:

- 1. The microbusiness must have a physical location and is headquartered in Los Angeles County, California, including the City of Los Angeles.
- 2. The microbusiness is currently active and operating since at least December 2019.
- 3. The microbusiness was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4. The microbusiness had **less than \$50,000** in revenue in the 2019 taxable year.
- 5. The microbusiness currently has fewer than five full-time equivalent employees and had fewer than five full-time equivalent employees in the 2019 and 2020 taxable years as based on tax filings by self-attestation on a valid application.

- 6. The microbusiness is not a business excluded from participation in the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, as specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (g) of Section 12100.82.
- 7. The microbusiness owner must provide an acceptable form of government-issued photo ID such as:
 - o Driver's License
 - o State ID
 - o Passport
- 8. The microbusiness owner applying for the grant must be the majority-owner and manager of the qualified microbusiness and the owner's primary means of income in the 2019 taxable year.
- 9. The microbusiness owner must not have received a grant under the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program.

Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements listed <u>here</u>, "*qualified microbusiness*" shall not include entities that satisfy any of the following:

- 1. Businesses without a physical presence in the state and not headquartered in the State of California;
- 2. Businesses primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities, regardless of whether the entity is registered as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6), or 501(c)(19);
- 3. Passive businesses, investment companies, and investors who file a Schedule E on their tax returns;
- 4. Financial institutions or businesses primarily engaged in the business of lending, such as banks, finance companies, and factoring companies;
- 5. Businesses engaged in any activity that is unlawful under federal, state, or local law;
- 6. Businesses that restrict patronage for any reason other than capacity;
- 7. Speculative businesses;

- 8. Businesses with any owner of greater than 10 percent of the equity interest in it who meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - i. The owner has, within the prior three years, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against the owner, or has had commenced any form of parole or probation, including probation before judgment, for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a federal, state, or local public transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust or procurement statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.
 - ii. The owner is presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a federal, state, or local government entity, with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in clause (i).
- 9. Affiliated companies, as defined in Section 121.103 of Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations; or

Continued next page

Ineligible Businesses

10. Other businesses determined by California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), consistent with the limitations and exclusions set in previous rounds of the <u>COVID-19 Relief</u> <u>Grant Program</u>.

Eligible Uses of Funds

A microbusiness owner who is a recipient of a grant pursuant to this Program must self-certify that grant funds will be used for one or more of the following eligible uses:

- 1. The purchase of new certified equipment including, but not limited to, a cart.
- 2. Investment in working capital.
- 3. Application for, or renewal of, a local permit including, but not limited to, a permit to operate as a sidewalk vendor.
- 4. Payment of business debt accrued due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5. Costs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and related health and safety restrictions, or business interruptions or closures incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as defined in subdivision (I) of Section 12100.83.



The following documents are required to apply for this Program:

- 1. Applicant Certification
- 2. Signed and unaltered Federal 2019 tax returns (Upload ALL pages)
- 3. Official filing with the California Secretary of State (which must be active) or local municipality, as applicable, for your business such as one of the following
 - Articles of Incorporation;
 - Certificate of Organization;
 - Fictitious Business Name Filing;
 - Professional License;
 - Government-Issued Business License.
 - If current license is not available, expired business license with proof of renewal payment made.

- 4. Government-Issued ID uploaded via Persona, which will be embedded in the application. Acceptable forms of government-issued ID:
 - Driver's License
 - State ID
 - Passport
- 5. Valid banking account which must be linked via Plaid, which will be embedded in the application.

How to Complete the Applicant Certification



department of economic opportunity county of los anceles







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Applicant Certification

As part of the application process, you will be required to self-certify the truthfulness and accuracy of the information you provide in the web application and supporting documents by signing an Applicant Certification.

The Applicant Certification will be available in electronic form for you to download and complete. A signed Applicant Certification is a required document in this grant process and will need to be uploaded to the Portal as a PDF file.

You can complete the Applicant Certification in two ways:

- 1. Download and sign the certification electronically or
- 2. Print and complete the form by hand.

How to Complete Your Applicant Certification Electronically

Step 1

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Step 2

Locate Applicant Certification on your device and open the file from there. Your Applicant Certification will open as a PDF file.



Step 3

Complete the Applicant Certification by entering your initials next to all numbered items and then entering your signature and business information on the last page.



Step 4

After completing the Applicant Certification, save it again by going to File > Save or pressing CTRL+S on your keyboard to save your fully executed Applicant Certification.

Step 5

Upload the completed Applicant Certification as PDF file in the Portal during the application process.

How to Complete Your Applicant Certification Manually

Step 1

Print the Applicant Certification by clicking the printer 🚔 icon.



Step 2

Fill out the Applicant Certification using a dark pen and legible handwriting.

Step 3

After completing the Applicant Certification, save it again by going to File > Save or pressing CTRL+S on your keyboard to save your fully executed Applicant Certification.

Step 5

Upload the completed Applicant Certification as PDF file in the Portal during the application process.

Examples of Required Documents











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2019 Federal Tax Returns

Form 1120

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Form **1040**

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Example: Filing with the CA Secretary of State or Local Municipality

Articles of Incorporation

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B. This Corp purpose p Code of 15 future Unit articles, thi or exercise shall not cr exempt fro section of deductible federal tax	portation is organized and operated exclusively for eduk quesurunt to and writin the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) o 986, as amended (the 'Code' or 'L.R.C.''), or the correspo- lied States Internal Revenue law. Notwithstanding any o the Corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, et e of power that do not further the purpose of the Corpora- ary on any or other activities not permitted to be carried om federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Cod any future federal tax code; or (ii) by a corporation, con under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code, or the correspondin code.	rational and charitable of the Internal Revenue anding provision of any ther provision of these agage in other activities tion. The Corporation on by: (i) a corporation on by: (i) a corporation e, or the corresponding tributions of which are g section of any future
	ARTICLE III	
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	ARTICLE IV	
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Fictitious Name of Registration

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Example: Filing with the CA Secretary of State or Local Municipality

Certificate of Organization

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Government-Issued Business License				
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		F LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA PREPARED: 11 BUSINESS LICENSE RSHIP NON-TRANSFERABLE	06/2018 P120	
	ACCOUNT NUMBER: 1	BUSINESS TYPE: BUSINESS OFFICE		
	OWNER: ACTION INVESTIGATORS	DBA NAME: ACTION AUTO RECOVERY PRODUCT: BUSINESS		
		AUTHORIZED BY: JOHN GROSS DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MANA	JEMENT	

Example: Government-Issued Photo ID

Acceptable Forms of Government-Issued ID





Passport

Drivers License

The following forms of ID will **NOT** be accepted:

- Expired IDs
- Bus Passes
- School IDs
- Union IDs
- Job Badges
- Library Cards

Tips for Applying













Please make sure you are using a valid email address and that it is spelled correctly in the application.

• Updates and additional guidance for your application will be sent to the email address you provide. Certain email addresses cannot be recognized in Lendistry's system and may cause delays in communication regarding your application.

Invalid Email Addresses

The following email addresses will not be accepted or recognized in our system:

Emails *beginning* with **info@** Example: info@mycompany.com

Emails *ending* with **@contact.com** or **@noreply.com** Example: mycompany@contact.com Example: mycompany@noreply.com

Tip #2: Prepare Your Documents in PDF Format

All required documents must be uploaded to the Portal in PDF format only. The documents must be clear, aligned straight, and contain no disruptive backgrounds when uploaded.

Important Notes for Uploading Documents:

- All documents must be submitted in PDF format (Government-1. issued ID may be submitted as a PDF or JPEG).
- File size must be under 15MB. 2.
- The file name CANNOT contain any special characters 3. (!@#\$%^&*()_+).
- If your file is password protected, you will need to enter it in. 4.

Don't have a scanner?

We recommend downloading and using a free mobile scanning app.

Genius Scan

Apple Click Here to Download Android Click Here to Download

Adobe Scan

Apple Click Here to Download Android Click Here to Download



Sample: Correct Upload

- 1. Document not aligned straight.
- 2. Document is in front of window (busy background) and a hand is seen in the photo.

What is Persona?

Persona is a third-party platform utilized by Lendistry in its fraud prevention and mitigation process. The Persona platform enables Lendistry to verify an individual's identity and protect against identity spoofing by automatically comparing the individual's selfie to their ID portrait with a 3-point composite and biometric liveness checks.

- Applicants will be required to verify their identity using Persona by uploading a picture of a valid government-issued photo ID.
 - Acceptable forms of government-issued photo ID include:
 - Driver's License;
 - o United States Passport; and
 - State ID.
- Applicants will also need to take a selfie using a device with a front-facing camera to complete the Persona verification.

Best Practices to Successfully Complete Persona

- Use a front-facing device. If you work on your application on a laptop or computer that does not have a camera, you will be given the option to complete Persona using a mobile device at any time by clicking "Continue on another device" and scanning the QR code provided or requesting a link via SMS or Email.
 - Once you complete Persona on your mobile device, you will be automatically redirected to your application on your laptop or computer.
- 2. Take a picture of the front and back of your government-issued ID *before* starting Persona and save it on the device you will use to take your selfie to be efficient.
 - Place your government-issued ID on a plain white surface and use adequate lighting.
 - Do not use flash as it may cause a glare.
- 3. When taking your selfie, use adequate lighting pointed toward your face while avoiding bright light sources from behind.
 - Stand in front of a blank wall or door and avoid busy backgrounds.
 - Do not use flash as it may cause a glare.

How to Complete Persona

Step 1

Click on "**Begin Verifying**," and then select the type of governmentissued ID you will use to verify your identity.

Step 2

Take or upload a picture of the **front** side of your ID. Select "Use this File" to continue. See <u>page 20</u> for best practices on how to complete this step.



How to Complete Persona

Step 3

Take or upload a picture of the **back** side of your ID. Select "Use this File" to continue. See <u>page 20</u> for best practices on how to complete this step.

Step 4

Using a **front-facing** device with a camera, follow the prompt on the screen to take a selfie by looking forward, left, and then right. See <u>page 20</u> for best practices on how to complete this step. Once complete, select "Done" and you will be redirected to the application.



Tip #4: Use Google Chrome

For the best user experience, please use Google Chrome throughout the entire application process.

Other web browsers may not support our interface and can cause errors in your application.

If you do not have Google Chrome on your device, you can download it for free at <u>https://www.google.com/chrome/</u>.

Before you begin the application, please do the following on Google Chrome:

- **1. Clear Your Cache**
- 2. Use Incognito Mode
- 3. Disable Pop-Up Blocker

Clear Your Cache

Cached data is information that has been stored from a previously used website or application and is primarily used to make the browsing process faster by auto-populating your information. However, cached data may also include outdated information such as old passwords or information you have previously entered incorrectly. This can create errors in your application and may result in it being flagged for potential fraud.

Use Incognito Mode

Incognito mode allows you to enter information privately and prevents your data from being remembered or cached.

Disable Pop-Up Blocker

Our application includes multiple pop-up messages that are used to confirm the accuracy of the information you provide. You must disable the pop-up blocker on Google Chrome to see these messages.

How to Clear Your Cache

Step 1

Open a new Google Chrome window, click the three dots in the upper Select "Clear Data." right corner, and then go to "Settings."



Step 2

Go to "Privacy and Security", and then select "Clear Browsing Data."



Step 3



How to Use Incognito Mode

Step 1

Click the three dots in the upper right corner of your web browser, and then select "**New incognito window**."

Step 2

Your browser will open a new Google Chrome window. Use incognito mode throughout the entire application process.





How to Disable Pop-Up Blockers

Step 1

Open a new Google Chrome window, click the three dots in the upper right corner, and then go to "**Settings**."



Step 2

Go to "Privacy and Security", and then select "Site Settings."

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(I) On startup	Controls what information sites can use and show (location, camera, pop-ups, and more)	•				
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Step 3

Select "**Pop-up and Redirects**." Click the button so that it turns blue and the status changes from "**Blocked**" to "**Allowed**."

٩	Cookies and site data Third-party cookies are blocked in Incognito mode	
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Economic Opportunity Grant Program Microbusiness Grants – Round 1

The Review Process













How will I know if I was awarded a grant?

The application process for this program contains multiple stages of validation. You must first meet the program's minimum eligibility requirements in order to be considered for a grant. **Important Note: Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee a grant award.**

Once you are determined to be eligible for this program, your application will then go through final validation to determine if you are approved or declined for funding. As part of this validation process, **you will be required to confirm certain information live over the telephone**. A member of Lendistry's team will reach out to you directly to complete this process.

Once your application is fully validated, you will receive an email from Lendistry to notify you if you have been approved or declined for grant funding.

How do I check the status of my application?

You can check the status of your application at any time by signing into Lendistry's Portal using the username, password, and mobile number that you registered. Once signed in, the status will appear on the dashboard.

Sign into Lendistry's Portal

here: https://lacountyeog.mylendistry.com/landing

My documents and bank information has been fully validated and I have been approved for funding. When will I receive funding?

Once your application has been fully validated and approved for grant funding, your grantee agreement and W-9 form will become available to you as a **DocuSign document** in Lendistry's Portal. Please sign in and follow the instructions from DocuSign to initial, sign, and date both documents.

Sign into Lendistry's Portal

here: https://lacountyeog.mylendistry.com/landing

Important Note: Your funds will not be released until this is complete.

Application Status

Status	What it Means	Action Required by Applicant
Incomplete	You have started an application but have not submitted it.	Complete all sections of the application within 30 days of starting it. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or considered for a grant.
Inactive	Your application has been incomplete for more than 30 days and has been withdrawn from the review process.	If you would like to reinstate your inactive application, please contact our dedicated Call Center
Application Submitted	You have completed all sections and submitted an application.	No further action is required by you. Lendistry will reach out to you only if additional information or documents are needed.
Application submitted, but additional docs required.	You have submitted an application, but additional documentation or information is needed for Lendistry to process it.	Sign into Lendistry's Portal and upload all new documents or information that were requested. Your application cannot be processed until this is complete.
Application under review for minimum eligibility requirements.	Your application and documentation have been processed. Your application is now under review for eligibility.	No further action is required by you. Lendistry will reach out to you once we determine if you are eligible or ineligible for a grant.
Your application is INELIGIBLE because it does not meet the program's minimum eligibility requirements.	Your application did not meet the Program's minimum eligibility requirements and will not be considered for a grant award.	You will be notified via email if you are ineligible for this grant program. If there was an error in your web application form or in the documentation provided as part of your application, please contact our dedicated Call Center within five (5) days of receiving this email. Please note that this will not guarantee a reversal of your ineligibility. Additional documents and information may be requested to further validate your application. If Lendistry does not hear from you within this timeframe, your ineligibility will be sustained, and your file will be closed.
Your application meets the Program's minimum eligibility requirements and will move to the next validation stage.	Your application meets the Program's minimum eligibility requirements and will go through validation to determine if you are approved or declined for a grant award.	No further action is required by you. Lendistry will reach out to you only if additional information or documents are needed.

Application Status

Status	What it Means	Action Required by Applicant
Additional documents are needed in order for your application to continue through the validation stage.	Additional documents or information are needed to fully validate your application.	Sign into Lendistry's Portal and upload all new documents or information that were requested. Your application cannot be validated until this is complete.
Application Declined	Your application has been declined for a grant award.	You will be notified via email if you are declined for a grant award. If you believe you were declined in error, please contact our dedicated Call Center within five (5) days of receiving this email. Please note that this will not guarantee a reversal of your ineligibility. Additional documents and information may be requested to further validate your application. If Lendistry does not hear from you within this timeframe, your decline determination will remain permanently, and your file will be closed
Application Approved	Your application has been approved for a grant award.	Your Award Disbursement Agreement and W-9 will be made available as a DocuSign document in Lendistry's Portal. You will need to sign in and follow the instructions from DocuSign to initial, sign, and date both documents.
Application Approved, Grants Docs Pending	Your Award Disbursement Agreement and W-9 are available as a DocuSign document in Lendistry's Portal.	Sign into Lendistry's Portal and follow the instructions from DocuSign to initial, sign, and date both documents. Important Note: Your funds will not be released until this is complete.
Grant Docs Received	Lendistry has received your fully executed Award Disbursement Agreement and W-9. Your banking information will go through one last validation before funding. You will receive funds via ACH.	No further action is required by you. Lendistry will only reach out to you if there are issues setting up an ACH transfer to your bank account.
Grant Funded	You have been fully funded for your eligible grant award.	No further action is required by you. Your file is now closed.