



## Eligibility

**1. Are home-based businesses eligible to apply?**

Yes, home-based businesses that have an active business license are eligible to apply.

**2. Are non-profits eligible to apply?**

No. Non-profits are not eligible to apply.

**3. My business falls under Arts and Culture. Am I eligible to apply?**

Only for-profit entities in the arts and culture category can apply. If your business is a **nonprofit** entity, you should consider applying to the *Alameda County Arts Relief Grant Program*. This grant program is for **nonprofit** arts and cultural organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and will award grants to qualifying organizations providing arts programs and services in the areas of visual art, dance, theater, music, literature, poetry, cultural traditions, and other related forms of arts, culture and creativity. Please note, applications for the Alameda County Arts Relief Grant Program are due **Friday, November 20 at 5:00 pm**. For more information, visit [https://www.acgov.org/arts/html/whats\\_new.html](https://www.acgov.org/arts/html/whats_new.html)

**4. My business is in Unincorporated Alameda County. Am I eligible to apply?**

No. Alameda County has a separate grant program to assist businesses in unincorporated Alameda County (San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, Castro Valley, etc.). The *COVID-19 Business Adaptation Grants (BAG)* are intended to assist small businesses facing revenue losses and ongoing expenses. Eligible businesses can receive a one-time grant of up to \$5,000. To apply to the second round of funding, visit <http://www.edenupgrade.org/>.

**5. My business is in the Cannabis Industry. Am I eligible to apply?**

No.

**6. I am a sole proprietor with no employees or only with independent contractors. Am I eligible to apply?**

If you are licensed to operate a business in Alameda County, you may apply for a grant.

**7. Are mobile food trucks and pop-up businesses eligible to apply?**

No.

**8. Am I still eligible to apply if my business license is expired?**

Your business must have a current business license with your city. Please check your city website for information on updating your business license if needed.

**9. I started a brand-new business during the pandemic but never opened due to the Shelter in Place order. Am I still eligible to apply?**

Yes. Applicants that meet Alameda County CARES Grant criteria (business is based in Alameda County and is in possession of a current, valid business license with your city) are eligible to apply.



**10. My business is still not allowed to open or was ordered to closed again, per the Alameda County Public Health Order. Am I still eligible to apply?**

Businesses approved to operate pursuant to the Alameda County Public Health Order and Alameda County [“Openings At A Glance”](#) dated November 3 will serve as the baseline for eligibility since this grant program was approved on November 10, 2020. Program guideline changes, including expansion of eligibility, may be granted by the County of Alameda at its discretion and if additional funding is available.

**11. Are sauna/hot tub businesses eligible to apply?**

No. Businesses approved to operate pursuant to the Alameda County Public Health Order and Alameda County [“Openings At A Glance”](#) dated November 3 will serve as the baseline for eligibility since this grant program was approved on November 10, 2020. Program guideline changes, including expansion of eligibility, may be granted by the County of Alameda at its discretion and if additional funding is available.

**12. Am I eligible to apply if my office-based business has shifted to remote work?**

Yes, if your business is located in Alameda County, in possession of a current, valid business license, and has 25 employees or fewer.

**13. Am I eligible to apply if I already received a grant from a city or if I received an SBA loan (PPP, EIDL, Express Bridge Loan)?**

Yes, although your grant request must not duplicate any expenses from these other sources.

**14. Am I eligible to apply if I own/operate a chain business?**

No. The only exception is if your chain or franchise business is *headquartered* in Alameda County and employs 25 employees or fewer.

**15. Am I eligible to apply if I own/operate a franchise business?**

Yes, if your business is located in Alameda County, in possession of a current, valid business license with your city, and has 25 employees or fewer.

**16. Can I apply for more than one grant if I have multiple locations in different cities within Alameda County?**

Yes, but each business must be in possession of a current, valid business license in each city within Alameda County, and has 25 employees or fewer.

**17. Can I apply for more than one grant if I have multiple locations in the same city?**

No, a business with multiple locations in one city can apply for one - and only one - grant.

**18. Are independent contractors eligible?**

Applicants that meet Alameda County CARES Grant criteria (be based in Alameda County and in possession of a current, valid business license with your city) are eligible to apply.

## Other Questions

**1. Why do I need to fill out an IRS Form W-9?**

Alameda County needs this document to issue a grant payment to your business if you are selected.



**2. I do not have an IRS Form W-9. How do I get one?**

Go here to download a form. <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

**3. Do I need to retain receipts if I am awarded a grant?**

Yes, you will need to retain receipts and other proof of expenditures in the event your grant payment is subject to audit.

**4. When is the deadline to apply?**

Businesses must fill out a completed online application at [www.eastbayeda.org/grants](http://www.eastbayeda.org/grants) by Monday, November 30 at 11:30 p.m.

**5. How will grants be awarded?**

If the funding requests for all grant applications exceeds available funding levels, grants will be awarded by lottery.

**6. How and when will I be notified?**

Applicants who receive grants will be contacted via email no later than December 30, 2020.