



CITY OF HOMER ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANTS

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there fees associated with City CARES Act Economic Relief Grant programs?

No, there are no fees to apply to apply.

If my application is denied can I appeal?

Yes, an applicant who is denied may appeal (in writing) to the City Manager no later than 5PM the 10th calendar day after the applicant receives notice from the City.

What is the timeline for the NERG, CBERG, and SoSERG programs?

Applications must be received or postmarked by 5 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2020. The City plans to review the applications and process payments to eligible recipients on a rolling basis.

Am I eligible for the City of Homer economic relief grants if I received federal or state CARES Act grants or loans?

Yes, you can apply for program funds even if you were awarded other CARES Act funding.

Will receipt of this grant make me ineligible for other grant programs?

If you are going to apply for other federal or state grant or loan programs, the City advises applicants to check the eligibility rules for those programs.

What support document(s) do I need to provide with my application?

All applicants need to provide a W-9 form from the Internal Revenue Service with application.

Do I have to provide financial records to prove business losses due to COVID-19?

No, the applications do not require invoices, receipts, bank statements, financial spreadsheets or other records. Applicants are required to certify their business was economically impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency and provide a budget specifying how funds will be used.

Do I have to keep records of my grant spending?

The City is not asking for proof of the spending, however grants under this program are subject to audit and may be randomly selected to provide documentation of grant expenditures upon request for program evaluation. Grantees are required to maintain records and receipts for grant expenditures for a period of 6 years.

Are the grant funds subject to federal income taxes?

The City advises applicants to contact their tax preparer for professional advice. The IRS provides more information about the Coronavirus and other economic impact payments [here](#).



What if my business shares physical quarters with other businesses? Can each business apply and qualify for its own grant?

Yes, so long as each business has its own state license, files its own sales tax returns under its own name and does not share the same ownership with the other co-located businesses. Yes, provided you meet the other eligibility criteria.

What expenses can the grant money cover?

Grant money can cover losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic which includes payment of rent or required monthly loan payments; payment of essential wages, taxes and normal benefits to employees; normal operating expenses; additional operating expenses of reopening or resuming services to the public and the costs of protecting staff, customers or clients; It can also cover expenses incurred to replenish inventory, necessary re-opening expenses, temporary housing for quarantined employees, hiring necessary additional staff or responding to additional non-budgeted needs related to COVID-19 responses not paid for by another grant.

Is there a deadline for a grant recipient to spend the money?

Yes, the grant funds received must be fully expended by December 30, 2020.

If my business already received SBERG funds, could my business qualify for the NERG, CBERG or SoSERG program?

Yes, provided your business or organization meets the eligibility criteria.