



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Grant Funding Schemes

Small Business Grant Fund / Retail,
Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund

Guidance for business



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Guidance for businesses

Introduction

1. In response to the Coronavirus, Covid-19, the Government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.
2. This support will take the form of two grant funding schemes, the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.
3. The schemes will be delivered by Local Authorities – if you are eligible, your Local Authority will be in touch with you to arrange payment.
4. Businesses seeking information should refer to the Government's business support website: <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/>

How will the grants be provided?

5. Central Government will provide funding to Local Authorities that are responsible for business rate billing. Those Local Authorities will contact eligible businesses to arrange payment of the grants.

How much funding will be provided to businesses?

6. Under the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) all eligible businesses in England in receipt of either Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) or Rural Rates Relief (RRR) in the business rates system will be eligible for a payment of £10,000.
7. Under the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) eligible businesses in England in receipt of the Expanded Retail Discount (which covers retail, hospitality and leisure) with a rateable value of less than £51,000 will be eligible for a cash grants of £10,000 or £25,000 per property.
8. Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to and including £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000.
9. Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000.
10. Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over are not eligible for this scheme. Businesses which are not ratepayers in the business rates system are not included in this scheme.

Who is eligible for these schemes?

Small Business Grant Fund Eligibility

11. Businesses with a property that on the 11 March 2020 were eligible for Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) Scheme (including those with a Rateable Value between £12,000 and £15,000 which receive tapered relief).
12. Businesses which on 11 March 2020 were eligible for relief under the Rural Rate Relief Scheme are also eligible for this scheme.
13. Eligible recipients will receive one grant per property.

Exclusions to Small Business Grant Fund

14. You cannot get SBGF for:
 - Properties occupied for personal uses, such as private stables and loose boxes, beach huts and moorings.
 - Car parks and parking spaces.
15. Businesses which as of the 11 March were in liquidation or were dissolved will not be eligible.

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Eligibility

16. Properties which on the 11 March 2020 had a rateable value of less than £51,000 and would have been eligible for a discount under the business rates Expanded Retail Discount Scheme had that scheme been in force are eligible for the grant. Charities which would otherwise meet this criteria but whose bill for 11 March had been reduced to nil by a local discretionary award should still be considered to be eligible for the RHL grant.
17. Recipients will receive one grant per eligible property.

Exclusions to RHLG

18. You cannot get RHLG for:
 - Properties occupied for personal uses, such as private stables and loose boxes, beach huts and moorings.
 - Car parks and parking spaces.
 - Properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or over.
19. Businesses which as of the 11 March were in liquidation or were dissolved will not be eligible.
20. Eligible recipients will receive one grant per property. Recipients cannot receive both SBGF and RHLG on the same property.

Who will receive this funding?

21. The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer for the property on the 11 March 2020.
22. Where the Local Authority has reason to believe that the information that they hold about the ratepayer on the 11 March 2020 is inaccurate they may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer. The grant is for the ratepayer and any money paid may be liable for recovery if the recipient was not the ratepayer on the eligible day.
23. Landlord and management agents are urged to support local government in quickly identifying the correct ratepayer.

Managing the risk of fraud

24. The Government will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and any business caught falsifying their records to gain additional grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

Rating List Changes

25. No changes made to the business's rateable value or rating assessment after 11 March 2020 will be accepted for the purposes of determining eligibility.
26. In cases where there are clear errors on the rating list on 11 March 2020, Local Authorities may, at their discretion, withhold the grant and/or award the grant based on their view of which businesses would have been entitled.

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