

# Small Business Workforce Stability Grant

## Questions & Answers

- How many applications will be awarded?

WDB anticipates awarding grants to up to 13 businesses, with individual awards of up to \$10,000, for those impacted by the Anheuser-Busch and Mare Island Dry Dock closures. For those impacted by the Valero Refinery closure, WDB anticipates awarding grants to up to 10 businesses, with individual awards of up to \$25,000. Final award amounts will be based on each individual funding request and the amount approved.

- Is there a total funding pool, or is the award amount fixed per business?

There is a defined total funding pool for this grant. While applicants may request funding up to the maximum allowable amount per category, final awards are not fixed and will be determined based on each individual request and the amount approved through the review process. Funding will be awarded until the available funds are exhausted. Additional funding opportunities may be available in the future.

- Is the estimate of 10–13 awards for each closure, or combined across categories?

WDB anticipates awarding grants to up to 13 businesses, with individual awards of up to \$10,000, for those impacted by the Anheuser-Busch and Mare Island Dry Dock closures. For those impacted by the Valero Refinery closure, WDB anticipates awarding grants to up to 10 businesses, with individual awards of up to \$25,000.

- Are applications reviewed all at once after the deadline, or is it first-come, first-served?

All qualified applications submitted between April 1 and May 1 will be reviewed together after the deadline.

- Are nonprofit organizations eligible to apply?

This grant funding is primarily intended to support small, for-profit businesses impacted by the identified closures. However, nonprofit organizations that meet all eligibility criteria and can clearly demonstrate impact, alignment with the program's goals, and the ability to fulfill all application requirements are welcome to apply. All applications will be reviewed based on the strength of the submission and alignment with the intent of the funding.

- Are schools eligible to apply, or is eligibility limited to certain types such as daycare providers?

Schools are eligible to apply, provided they meet all eligibility criteria, can clearly demonstrate impact, and align with the program's goals. Applicants must also be able to fulfill all application requirements.

All submissions will be evaluated based on the strength of the application and alignment with the intent of the funding.

- Do you distinguish between employees and independent contractors?

This program's requirements focus on employee headcount and workforce retention, which indicates that the term "employees" refers to W-2 employees rather than independent contractors. Businesses should base their responses on employees when reporting workforce numbers and retention commitments.

- Is an EDD number required to apply?

Applicants are required to provide an EDD account number as part of the application and must be in good standing with the Employment Development Department (EDD).

- Can you provide more examples of how a business may demonstrate impact from the closures?

Businesses must demonstrate a clear connection between the closure and a negative impact on their operations. Examples of impact may include:

- A measurable loss of revenue or decline in customers following the closure
- Loss of contracts or consistent business tied to the affected company
- Reduced employee hours, wages, or staffing levels
- Layoffs or risk of future layoffs
- Disruptions to supply chains or vendor relationships

For example, a restaurant may experience a decrease in weekday customers if employees from a closed facility were part of its regular customer base. A childcare provider may see reduced enrollment if families impacted by layoffs can no longer afford services. Similarly, a business that previously held a contract with one of the closed companies may lose a significant portion of its revenue.

Applicants should clearly explain this connection in their application and provide supporting documentation where possible.

- Is there a specific template or guidelines applicants should follow?

There is no specific template or guideline that application should follow. The application includes all necessary questions. Responses should be clear, detailed, and specific.

- Will applicants be able to attach supporting documentation beyond the standard input fields?

Applicants will be able to upload all supporting documentation while completing the application.

- What are examples of things that should not be included in the application as part of the use of funding?

Applicants should avoid including any costs that are not allowable under the grant guidelines, as these may result in disqualification. Examples of unallowable uses include payroll, employee wages or

benefits, rent, utilities, credit card or debt payments, construction or renovation expenses, and transportation or vehicle-related costs. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the list of allowable and unallowable costs and ensure their funding request aligns with the intent of the program.

- What is the scoring criteria for applications?

Applications are evaluated based on the overall strength of the submission and alignment with the intent of the funding. This includes clearly demonstrating the impact of the closure on the business, providing a detailed and specific plan for how funds will be used, and showing how the proposed activities will support business stability and employee retention. Strong applications should present a clear and cohesive narrative, include a well-defined budget, and effectively connect the requested funding to measurable outcomes.

- Will the presentation slides from this session be shared?

Yes, we will make the presentation available on the landing page.

- For the webinar on the 21<sup>st</sup>, will it be the same session, or will there be additional information?

Both sessions will provide the same information.