

BUSINESS SUPPORT FUND

Assistance for Victorian small businesses impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Potential value of grant

Funding of \$10,000 per business is available and will be allocated through a grant process.

Eligibility requirements

Businesses are eligible to apply for a grant through the Fund if they meet the following criteria:

- Have been subject to closure or highly impacted by Non-Essential Activity Directions issued by the Deputy Chief Health Officer to-date; and
- Employ people; and
- Have a turnover of more than \$75,000; and
- Have payroll of less than \$650,000; and
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and held that ABN at 16 March 2020 (when the State of Emergency was declared); and
- Have been engaged in carrying out the operation of the business in the Australian State of Victoria on 16 March 2020.
- While owners of businesses that **do not** employ people (non-employing businesses) **are not eligible for funding through this program**, they can seek support through the Commonwealth Government's Job Seeker Payment Program.

Evidence of eligibility and compliance

- Applicants must certify in writing that they meet the eligibility criteria.
- Applicants will be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and will be required to produce evidence, such as payroll reports to demonstrate impact, at the request of the Victorian Government for a period of four years after the grant has been approved.
- If any information in the application is found to be false or misleading, or grants are not applied for the purposes stated in the terms of funding and application, the grant will be repayable on demand.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applicants must submit an application online via the 'Apply now' button on the following link <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-fund>
- Applications **open on Monday 30 March 2020** and **close on Monday 1 June 2020**.
- Businesses that have already expressed interest will be contacted by email with a link to apply.
- Applicants are required to provide a copy of their most recent Business Activity Statement (BAS). Other supporting materials can also be provided.

How can the funding be used?

Examples of what the grant funding could be used for include:

- Meeting business costs, including utilities, salaries, rent
- Seeking financial, legal or other advice to support business continuity planning
- Developing the business through marketing and communications activities
- Other supporting activities related to the operation of the business.