



department
of **economic
opportunity**
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SMALL BUSINESS MOBILITY FUND

Entrepreneurship Academy Grants

APPLICATION GUIDE

DISTRIBUTED IN COLLABORATION WITH **ICON CDC**

APPLICATION DEADLINE ROUND 1: FEBRUARY 13, 2026

About the Grants

The Small Business Mobility Fund **Entrepreneurship Academy Grants**, offered by the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), are designed to help businesses access flexible start-up and scale-up capital to support their business launch. It is part of the County's broader mission under the Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI) to provide education, technical assistance, mentorship, access to capital, and pathways to sustainable business growth and generational wealth.

The Entrepreneurship Academy Grants are made possible through the Care First Community Investment (CFCI). Funding is limited and eligibility does not guarantee a grant.

Eligible Applicants + Uses

Graduates of the County's Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI) Entrepreneurship Academy can receive up to **\$2,000** in grants to launch their business or take it to the next level*.

**If already launched, the business must show how the funding will support a specific launch or new phase within their business (e.g., new product or service, expansion to a new customer segment, rebrand, new online store, transition to a brick-and-mortar location, and/or new equipment to expand product offerings)*

ELIGIBLE USES

- Permit and license fees
- Website development and branding
- Start-up/set-up costs
- Accounting software
- Intellectual property protections
- Packaging, inventory, and equipment
- Required building permits
- Façade Improvements
- Tenant Improvements
- Signage

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a for-profit business seeking to launch or expand its business in the County of Los Angeles
- Applicants must reside in LA County
- Must be a graduate of the Economic Mobility Initiative Entrepreneurship Academy
- Annual gross business revenue must not exceed \$6 million
- Business must have fewer than 100 employees
- Applicant must be the majority owner (50% or more)
- Business must be located in Los Angeles County
- Must be domiciled in California and have required filings with the California Secretary of State.
- Applicant must be an active business and in good standing with all local, state, and federal taxing and licensing authorities.

Ineligible Businesses:

- Certain business types are not eligible. Refer to the full list of ineligible businesses.

Ineligible Businesses

- *Non-profit organizations (including Churches or other religious organizations)*
- *Landlords (Schedule E Passive Income)*
- *Businesses that do not have a permanent physical location in LA County, including those using addresses for P.O. Boxes, co-working spaces with temporary leases and/or memberships, virtual business addresses, Commercial Mail Receiving Agencies (CMRAs), and the like, are not eligible.*
- *Liquor stores and smoke shops*
- *Corporate-owned franchises*
- *Private social clubs*
- *Payday loan stores, pawnshops and other firms involved in lending activities, such as banks, finance companies and any other firm whose stock in trade is money*
- *Firms involved in speculative activities (i.e., day trading, stock market exchange facilitators)*
- *Insurance companies, such as life, auto, home, bail bonds, and other similar entities*
- *Astrology, palm reading, tarot, etc.*
- *Night clubs and any businesses that present live or other performances of a sexual nature*
- *Adult bookstores*
- *Gambling businesses (i.e., track wagering facilities, casinos, bingo parlors)*
- *Trailer-storage yards and junkyards*
- *Gun or ammunition stores*
- *Multi-sales distribution & multi-level marketing*
- *Lobbying firms or businesses that dedicate 50% or more of their time or resources to lobbying activities*
- *Government offices or agencies*
- *Other businesses that may be deemed ineligible by DEO, based on information submitted by the applicant*

What you need to apply:

EMI GRADUATES

The following documents are required to complete your application:

- State-issued ID/ Driver's license
- Business plan
- Valid and Current Business license
- Most recent tax returns (2023 or later)*
- Doing Business As (DBA)/Fictitious Business Name (FBN) or Corporation Filing
- Proof of residency (for example, utility bill, lease, pay stub, documentation showing that you are a resident of LA County.)
- California Secretary of State documentation
- Form 941 - (Applies to applicants with employees. Not required if applicant is a sole proprietor)
- Any related industry permits from the State and the County of Los Angeles (i.e., Health Permit, Establishment License, etc.)
- Must also submit a **copy of the Entrepreneurship Academy graduation certificate**

*If no business tax return was filed, household income cannot exceed \$300,000 and a personal tax return is required

How to Apply:

- 1 Complete the online application by visiting bit.ly/entrepreneurshipacademygrant
- 2 Check to see if you have the required documents
- 3 Answer the required questions
- 4 Upload documents
- 5 Sign and submit the application by February 13, 2026

If you qualify, our team will contact you for any follow-up information needed.

Application Walk-Through

Welcome Screen

First step

- Sign in to your email account

Save and Return Instructions

You can return to this application at any time using the same email address.

If you submit the application with missing documentation, you will receive an email from the ICON CDC team to send the missing documents within one week.

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Section 1 of 9

Welcome to the Small Business Mobility Entrepreneurship Academy Grant Application Form

The **Small Business Mobility Fund Entrepreneurship Academy Grant**, offered by the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), is designed to help graduates of the Economic Mobility Initiative Entrepreneurship Academy with access to flexible start-up and scale-up capital to support their business launch and/or growth. It is part of the County's broader mission under the Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI) to provide education, technical assistance, mentorship, access to capital, and pathways to sustainable business growth.

The \$2,000 Small Business Mobility Fund Entrepreneurship Academy Grant is designed to help new entrepreneurs and small businesses in Los Angeles County cover essential start-up and business expansion costs.

Grant Amounts and Eligible Applicants:

- \$2,000 – Graduates from an EMI Entrepreneurship Academy.

Application Walk-Through

Check for Required Documents

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IMPORTANT

Your application will be deemed incomplete if you do not submit these documents.

Do you have the required business plan detailing usage of funds? *Please note, additional points will be given to businesses with a business plan that includes a marketing plan strategy, target market, profit and loss statement, balance sheet, job description of staff, and describes in detail how funds will support the business's growth objectives.*

Yes

No

Application Walk-Through

Required Documents...

1

IMPORTANT

Your application will be deemed incomplete if you do not submit these documents.

Do you have the following required documents? Check all that apply: *

- Government-Issued Photo ID (Passport, Driver's License, etc.)
- Business plan
- Current business license
- Most recent tax returns (2023 or later)
- Doing Business As (DBA)/Fictitious Business Name (FBN) Filing
- Proof of residency
- Form 941, if firm has employees
- California Secretary of State Filings (if applicable)
- Industry required licenses or permits (establishment license, restaurant health permit, etc.),
- Other:

Application Walk-Through

Applicant Information

Section 2 requests for basic applicant information:

- Name
- Mobile Number
- Residential Address (must be in LA County)
- Percentage of business ownership (50% +)
- Preferred language

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Section 2 of 9

APPLICANT BASIC INFORMATION



Description (optional)

Business Information

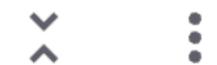
3

Section 3 walks the applicant through their business information:

- Legal business name
- Doing Business As/ Fictitious Business Name
- Business Address (must be in LA County)
- LA County Supervisor District
- Business phone and email
- Primary goods and/or services
- NAICS code
- Business start date and status
- Business operation location
- Business structure
- Secretary of State status
- Annual gross income
- Number of employees

Section 3 of 9

BUSINESS INFORMATION



Description (optional)

Application Walk-Through

Proposed Use of Funding

Section 4 asks about the proposed use of funding:

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Eligible Use of Funds if EMI Graduate

Below are the approved use of grant funds for EMI graduates. Please select how you plan to use your grant:

- Permit and license fees
- Website development and branding
- Start-up / set-up costs
- Accounting software
- Intellectual property protections
- Packaging, inventory, and equipment
- Required building permits
- Facade Improvements
- Tenant Improvements

Application Walk-Through

Proposed Use of Funding

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Section 4 asks about the proposed use of funds, projected impact of grants such as the number of jobs you anticipate creating, and past DEO services received.

New jobs created?

How many new jobs do you anticipate creating using this grant?

Short answer text

What additional services would be helpful for your business? *

Short answer text

Have you participated in an Entrepreneurship Academy or another DEO Program? Please list all programs or write N/A if you have not participated. *

Long answer text

Have you received any grants from DEO in the past 3 years? Please list all grants received or write N/A if you have not received any grants. *

Long answer text

Application Walk-Through

Entrepreneurship Academy

Section 5 dives into the EMI Entrepreneurship Academy Participation.

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Section 5 of 9

Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI) Entrepreneurship Academy



Please only respond to this section if you are an EMI Entrepreneurship Academy graduate.

Applicant Demographics (optional)

Section 6 requests applicant demographic information, such as:

- Gender
- Pronouns
- Race
- Identity Groups

Section 6 of 9

APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHICS (Optional)



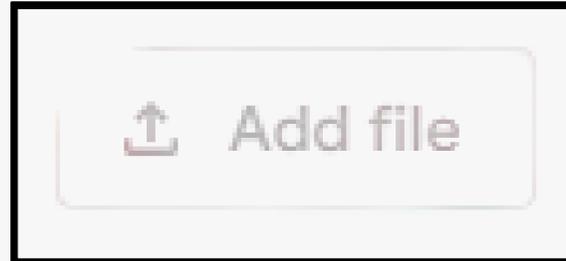
Answers are collected for reporting purposes and will NOT have an impact on application evaluation.

This section is optional and will NOT impact your application status.

Application Walk-Through

Upload Documents

EMI GRADUATES



Section 7 - The following documents will be required for upload to complete the application:

- State-issued ID/ Driver's license
- Business plan
- Valid and Current Business license (or BTRC)
- Most recent tax returns (2023 or later)*
- Doing Business As (DBA)/Fictitious Business Name (FBN) or Corporation Filing
- Proof of residency (for example, utility bill, lease, pay stub, etc.). Any documentation showing that you are a resident in LA County.)
- CA Secretary of State documentation
- Form 941 - (Applies to applicants with employees. Sole proprietors with no additional employees will not require a Form 941)
- Any related industry permits from the State and the County of Los Angeles (i.e., Health Permit, Establishment License, etc.)
- Copy of Entrepreneurship Academy graduation certificate

Title each document you upload with your business and document name. Ex: McDonald's_Business Plan

*If no business tax return was filed, household income cannot exceed \$300,000 and a personal tax return is required

Self Attestation

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Don't forget to sign and date the Self-Attestation section and Data Policy!

ATTESTATION

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that all information provided in this application and all accompanying documentation is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I understand and acknowledge that submission of incomplete, inaccurate, or false information may result in the application being deemed incomplete and ineligible for funding.

By printing my name and date below, I affirm my understanding of and compliance with the above statements.

Short answer text

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Application Walk-Through

Data Privacy

Sign the Data Policy Acknowledgement authorizing ICON CDC and DEO to collect your personal information to verify your eligibility. We promise to keep your data secure, and not sell your information to advertisers or 3rd party partners.

THEN SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW.

SUBMIT



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DATA PRIVACY:

I authorize ICON CDC and the Los Angeles County's Department of Economic Opportunity to collect and use my personal information for the purpose of verification and fraud prevention, program communications, eligibility determination, payment processing, evaluation of program impact, and improvement of the ICON CDC application and future Los Angeles County programming.

I authorize ICON CDC and the Los Angeles County's Department of Economic Opportunity to use my contact information to reach out with additional information, programs, and services related to the Small Business Mobility Launch Grants Program and other County programs.

I understand that my data will NOT be sold to advertisers or third-party partners and that my privacy will be maintained and will only be used to provide the program service described in this application, improve features, and communicate with me in relation to this application and to share information related to disaster recovery services. I understand that my data will only be shared in accordance with this policy and will not be used for commercial purposes or sold to external advertisers.

MY RIGHTS:

I understand that I have the right to access/correct/delete my data by contacting ICON CDC.

I can withdraw this consent at any time by contacting the same email address and acknowledge that such withdrawal may affect my participation in the program.

I have a right to be notified in case of any data breach.

I understand that ICON CDC will not sell my data under any circumstances.

Please sign by printing your name and date below.

Short answer text

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After you apply~

SUBMIT

Submit your Application.

APP REVIEW

The team at ICON CDC will review your application and uploaded documents to determine your eligibility.

CHECK EMAIL

You may be contacted if more information is needed to finalize review of your application.

NOTIFICATIONS

ICON CDC will contact you to notify you of your application status and schedule next steps, if awarded.



Important Reminders

- Application deadline is **February 13, 2026, at 11:00 pm**
- Funding is limited
- Applications will be scored based on a pre-determined prioritization matrix. Due to limited funding, not all applicants will be awarded funding.
- Applications and documentation must be complete, or it will not be reviewed
- One application per business per applicant will be accepted

ICON CDC IS HERE TO HELP!

- ✓ Application support
- ✓ One-on-one business guidance
- ✓ Help understanding eligibility
- ✓ Questions regarding documentation

Contact us at (818) 616-4118 or info@iconcdc.org

