



economic  
mobility  
initiative



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

SMALL BUSINESS MOBILITY FUND

**Launch  
Grants**

**Entrepreneurship  
Academy Grants**

DISTRIBUTED IN COLLABORATION WITH **ICON CDC**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 13, 2026

# About the Grants

The Small Business Mobility **Launch Grants** and **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, training and technical assistance, and capital, and pathways to sustainable business growth and generational wealth.

**Both grants are made possible through the Care First Community Investment (CFCI).**

# Launch Grants

## Eligible Applicants + Uses

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Must already be in the process of opening a location.\* Location must be in an **unincorporated area** of LA County with a current, valid lease or proof of ownership under the applicant's name:

- **\$5,000** – non-retail commercial space, such as an office or warehouse
- **\$10,000** – retail commercial space with a storefront

### ELIGIBLE USES

- Required building permits
- Façade improvements
- Tenant improvements
- Signage

*\*If already opened, location must have opened after September 1, 2025*

# Entrepreneurship Academy Grants

## Eligible Applicants + Uses

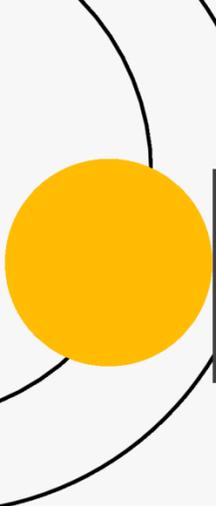
### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

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

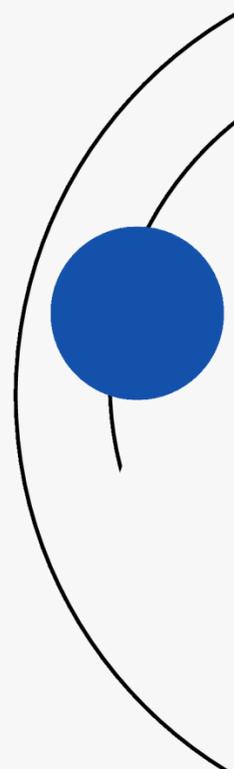
- Permit and license fees
- Website development and branding
- Start-up/set-up costs
- Accounting software
- Intellectual property protections
- Packaging, inventory, and equipment
- Required building permits
- Façade Improvements
- Tenant Improvements
- Signage



# Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a for-profit business in the County of Los Angeles
- Applicants must reside in LA County
- 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)
- 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.
- **Launch Grants:** Business must be located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County
- **Entrepreneurship Academy Grants:** Business must have graduated from an EMI Academy

## Ineligible Businesses:

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

# Documents required:

## LAUNCH GRANTS

Commercial lease or proof of ownership of location in unincorporated LA County

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY GRANTS

Must also submit a copy of the Entrepreneurship Academy graduation certificate

**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, or other document showing that you are a resident of LA County.)
- California Secretary of State documentation
- Copy of signed and executed commercial lease agreement or proof of ownership
- 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.)

# How to Apply:

- 1 Complete the online application by visiting **[opportunity.lacounty.gov/SBMF](https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/SBMF)**
- 2 Check for required documents
- 3 Answer the required questions
- 4 Upload documents
- 5 Sign and submit the application by February 13, 2026

**If applicants qualify, the ICON CDC team may contact them for any follow up information, if needed.**

# Application Process

## SUBMIT

Applicant submits Application.

Now ~ **February 13, 2026**

## APP REVIEW

The team at ICON CDC will review the applications and uploaded documents to determine applicant eligibility.

*Upon submission*

## CHECK EMAIL

Applicants may be contacted if more information is needed to finalize review of their application.

*After February 13, 2026*

## NOTIFICATIONS

ICON CDC will notify applicants about their application status and schedule next steps, if awarded.

*Beginning Mid March*

**Application deadline: February 13, 2026, at 11:00 pm**

# Prioritization:

## **Additional points are provided for the following:**

- Businesses with more employees
- Located in areas with comparatively high unemployment rate
- Business Plan (must detail how funding will support their launch/growth)
- Businesses dislocated by wildfires

## **In addition, for Launch Grants only:**

- Businesses planning to launch within 6 months with existing permits
- Businesses with 1 or no locations
- Businesses that have been in business longer (i.e. Legacy Businesses)
- Businesses opening a location in close proximity to the fires (Recover Local Map)

**Minimum of 15% of awardees must be from each Supervisorial District**

# Outcome Goals:

## LAUNCH GRANTS

- Increased physical business openings
- Job creation and local hiring
- Commercial corridor revitalization
- Revenue growth and business stability
- Enhanced community engagement and place-based identity
- Increased local tax base
- Greater business resilience

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY GRANTS

- Increased business formation and survival
- Revenue and productivity growth
- Job creation and retention
- Improved operational capacity
- Market expansion and diversification
- Enhanced competitiveness and innovation
- Local economic impact

**Business plan will also help OSB continue to support business growth as additional resources become available.**

# Virtual Webinars + In-person Application Clinics

🕒 Supervisorial District 3  
**January 13, 2026 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

👤 RSVP for Webinar: [bit.ly/webJan13sd3](https://bit.ly/webJan13sd3)

📍 Application Clinic: ICON CDC South Valley  
5805 Sepulveda Blvd., St. 801, Van Nuys, CA 91411  
RSVP for In-Person Clinic: [bit.ly/Jan13sd3](https://bit.ly/Jan13sd3)

🕒 Supervisorial District 5  
**January 15, 2026 | 9:30 am – 10:30 am**

👤 RSVP for Webinar: [bit.ly/webJan15sd5](https://bit.ly/webJan15sd5)

📍 Application Clinic: ICON CDC North Valley  
13168 Van Nuys Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331  
RSVP for In-person Clinic: [bit.ly/Jan15sd5](https://bit.ly/Jan15sd5)

🕒 Supervisorial District 1  
**January 20, 2026 | 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm**

👤 RSVP for Webinar: [bit.ly/webJan20sd1](https://bit.ly/webJan20sd1)

📍 Application Clinic: Office of Small Business  
4716 E. Cesar E. Chavez, Los Angeles, CA 90022  
RSVP for In-Person Clinic: [bit.ly/Jan20sd1](https://bit.ly/Jan20sd1)

🕒 Supervisorial District 4  
**January 22, 2026 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

👤 RSVP for Webinar: [bit.ly/webJan22sd4](https://bit.ly/webJan22sd4)

📍 Application Clinic: San Pedro Chamber of Commerce  
390 W. 7th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731  
RSVP for In-Person Clinic: [bit.ly/Jan22sd4](https://bit.ly/Jan22sd4)

🕒 Supervisorial District 2  
**January 28, 2026 | 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

👤 RSVP for Webinar: [bit.ly/webJan28sd2](https://bit.ly/webJan28sd2)

📍 Application Clinic: Lennox Library  
4359 Lennox Boulevard, Lennox CA 90304  
RSVP for In-Person Clinic: [bit.ly/Jan28sd2](https://bit.ly/Jan28sd2)

*in-person support offered at the  
application clinic.*

*Support in other languages is  
available, as needed.*

**English  
&  
Spanish**

# Application Assistance

**Technical Assistance**

## **ICON CDC**

North Valley:

3168 Van Nuys Blvd.,

Pacoima, CA 91331

Call: (818) 302-6114

South Valley:

5805 Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 801,

Van Nuys, CA 91411

Call: (818) 616-4118

Email: [info@iconcdc.org](mailto:info@iconcdc.org)

**General Questions**

## **DEO Office of Small Business**

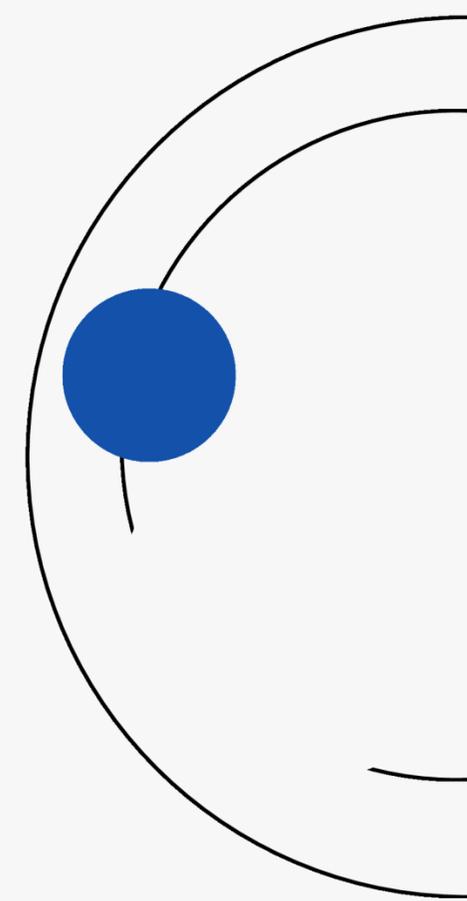
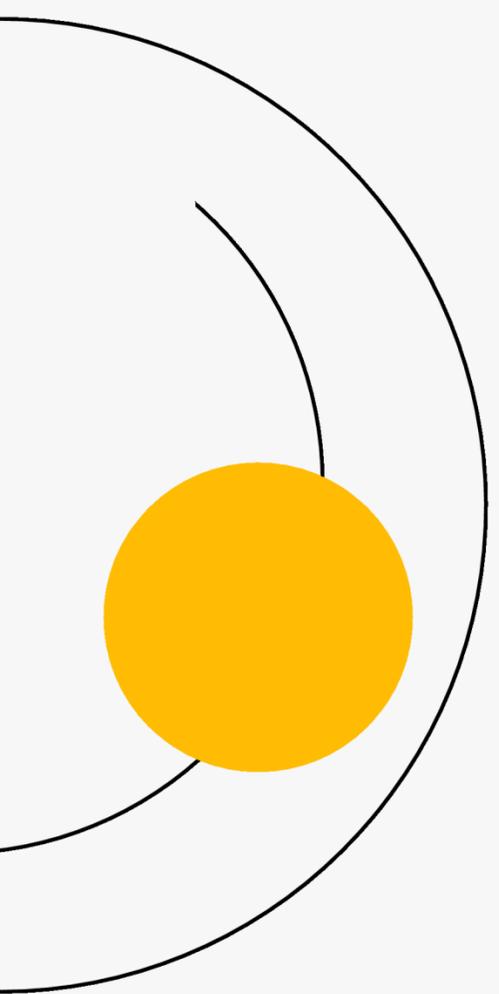
East LA Entrepreneur Center

4716 E. Cesar E. Chavez, Los Angeles CA 90022

Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Telephone: (844)-432-4900

Email: [osb@opportunity.lacounty.gov](mailto:osb@opportunity.lacounty.gov)



# Thank you!

[opportunity.lacounty.gov/SBMF](https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/SBMF)

