

Frequently Asked Questions

1 What is the Small Business Mobility Fund Launch Grant?

The Small Business Mobility Fund Launch Grants provide funding between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to support small businesses launching a brick-and-mortar location across the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The program is part of the County's Economic Mobility Initiative (EMI), designed to reduce barriers to business success through education, training, technical assistance, and access to capital.

2 Who is eligible for this grant?

To qualify:

- Business must launch a brick-and-mortar business in the unincorporated areas of the County
- Business must be a for-profit business headquartered in the County of Los Angeles
- Applicant must reside in LA County
- Applicant must be the majority owner and manager
- Business must have less than 100 employees
- Must be domiciled in California and have required filings with the California Secretary of State
- Annual gross business revenue must not exceed \$6 million according to most recent tax return (2023 or later). If no tax return is filed, household income cannot exceed \$300,000.
- Existing businesses must be in good standing with all local, state, and federal taxing and licensing authorities
- Cannot be in list of ineligible businesses available at opportunity.lacounty.gov/SBMF

3 How much funding can I receive?

Grant amounts depend on the commercial space where the business is launching:

- **\$5,000** – Businesses establishing or expanding a non-retail commercial space, such as an office or warehouse, in unincorporated Los Angeles County
- **\$10,000** – Businesses launching or expanding a brick-and-mortar retail commercial space with a storefront in unincorporated Los Angeles County

4 What can the grant funds be used for?

Eligible uses include tenant or facade improvements, signage, and related building permits. Planned use of funding must be included on a Business Plan submitted as part of the application.

5 How will awards be distributed across the County?

The Launch Grants ensure equity by requiring at least 15% of awards be awarded to applicants in each Supervisorial District, so funding reaches communities across Los Angeles County. In addition, priority is provided to businesses dislocated by recent wildfires or opening a business in the unincorporated areas of the County in close proximity to the recent wildfires, among other factors such as the number of employees and location in areas with comparatively high unemployment rates.

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How do I apply?

Please visit opportunity.lacounty.gov/SBMF for a link to the application. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Businesses can also call ICON CDC at (818) 616-4118 or email info@iconcdc.org for assistance in other languages.

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When does the application window open and close?

Applications launched on January 8, 2026, at 12:00 PM and will remain open until February 13, 2026, at 11:00 PM.

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Can I save my application and finish it later?

Yes, applicants can save and return to their application at any time using the same email address

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What documents will I need to submit?

Applicants will need:

- A completed Business Plan with planned use of funds
- Proof of residency
- Current commercial lease agreement or proof of ownership. Please note, co-working spaces with temporary leases or that are non-brick-and-mortar (i.e., open-air swap meets, farmer's markets, sidewalk vending, etc.) are not eligible. Subleases are not accepted, unless under circumstances where the landlord and primary lessee provide proof of sublease and that it is an allowed sublease.
- Government-Issued Photo Identification
- Business license and any required filings, such as Doing Business As (DBA)/Fictitious Business Name (FBN) or Corporation filings
- CA Secretary of State filings
- Any related industry permits from the State and the County of Los Angeles (i.e., Health Permit, Establishment License, etc.)
- Signed most recent business tax return (2023 or later). Personal return if a new business has not filed a tax return.
- Form 941, if the firm has employees

Additional post-award documentation such as bank information and a media release agreement, will be required. Please note, awardees will receive a 1099 tax form. Please refer to the main application site for additional details and requirements.

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What if I do not have a business plan?

ICON CDC can provide you a business plan template for you to use. A basic business plan should briefly outline the business's purpose and goals, describe its products or services and target market, explain how it will operate and attract customers, identify the management or ownership structure, and summarize key financial information such as startup costs, revenue expectations, and funding needs, providing a clear and cohesive picture of how the business will be launched, managed, and sustained.



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Will there be support to help me complete the application?

Yes. DEO, in partnership with ICON CDC, will host four virtual workshops and five in-person workshops/application clinics (one in each Supervisorial District, in English and Spanish). Please refer to website for dates and logistical information.

For questions and technical assistance:

ICON CDC

North Valley: 13168 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

For general questions:

**DEO Office of
Small Business**

Address: 4716 E. Cesar E. Chavez, Los Angeles 90022

Phone: (844)-432-4900

Email: osb@opportunity.lacounty.gov

Hours: M-F (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM)

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What support is available for applicants who do not speak English?

Multilingual assistance, including application support is available. Please contact ICON CDC for assistance.

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How will grants be distributed?

At least 15% of awardees must be operating in each Supervisorial District.

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How will applicants be selected?

Funding is limited, and eligibility does not guarantee a grant. Eligible applicants will be scored based on a predetermined priority matrix, which includes number of employees, locations in areas with comparatively high unemployment rates, and Business Plan, among other factors. While not a requirement, priority is also provided to businesses dislocated by recent wildfires or opening a business in the unincorporated areas of the County in close proximity to the fires. A blind lottery system will be applied for instances where there are more eligible applicants within the same score bracket than grants available.

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How will I know if I am selected for funding?

Applicants will receive notifications from ICON CDC by email regarding award status, additional document requests, or denials. ICON CDC has a secured site to secure confidential information.

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When will I find out if I've been selected?

Award notifications are expected to go out through March and April 2026 following the review and selection process.



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What happens after I receive the grant?

Awardees will be asked to:

- Sign a grant agreement confirming eligibility and agreeing to use of funds for approved business expenses
- Complete a post-award survey to help measure program impact
- Provide information to secure tax forms (W-9)
- Sign a Media Release form (allowing ICON CDC and DEO to use testimonial/success stories)
- Work with an assigned case manager to track grant use and business milestones
- Provide receipts and proof of eligible expenses
- When applicable, be referred to a Concierge Services Representative from DEO's Office of Small Business to get individualized support acquiring permits from the County or other small business service providers in designated cities.

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If selected, how will I get my payment?

Payments will be sent directly to the applicant's business bank account through ACH transfer.

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Will I be expected to report the grant on my taxes?

Please contact a tax professional to discuss your specific situation. However, please note that a 1099 MISC Form will be issued by ICON CDC.

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What if I run my business from a co-working brick-and-mortar space, do I qualify?

The \$10,000 grants are strictly available to single-tenant commercial spaces. Coworking spaces of any kind are not eligible. However, if you have a long-term lease for your co-working space and you do not need to dismantle operations after each day of operation, you may qualify for a \$5,000 Launch Grant.