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Business Support Fund - Expansion

\$5,000 grants to support businesses through the renewed restrictions

Additional business support announced Monday 3 August

The Victorian Government announced **updated restrictions for Melbourne and regional Victoria** **[External link \(opens in same window\)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updates/coronavirus-covid-19/premiers-statement-business-restrictions)** (<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updates/coronavirus-covid-19/premiers-statement-business-restrictions>) to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria.

- Stage 4 restrictions are in place from 6pm on Sunday 2 August for metropolitan Melbourne.
- Stage 3 restrictions are in place from 11:59pm on Wednesday 5 August for Regional Victoria, including Mitchell Shire.

These restrictions mean that many businesses will have to operate in a limited capacity or can no longer operate.

To support businesses impacted by these restrictions, one-off grants will be made available to eligible businesses under the Business Support Fund – Expansion program:

- \$10,000 for employing businesses in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire in recognition of spending longer under restrictions
- \$5,000 for employing businesses in regional local government areas (except Mitchell Shire)

Businesses which have already received a BSFe grant, or have applied for one, will not need to re-apply. Successful applicants will automatically receive this additional allocation.

Applications for the program will be extended until 14 September 2020.

Updated guidelines and information will be provided in the coming days.

This program is in addition to the first round of the Business Support Fund, which closed on 1 June 2020.

Before applying, please read the information provided on this page, including the Guidelines and FAQs. Updated Guidelines and FAQs will be available soon.

Program closes in 41 days

Currently open for applications

1What support is available?

Businesses operating within metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire affected by the return to Stay at Home restrictions may be eligible for a one-off, \$5,000 grant.

2Who is affected by the return to Stay at Home restrictions?

Stay at Home restrictions are in place across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire. For more information visit the Department of Health and Human Services website.

3What type of business can apply for this grant?

Businesses can apply where they meet all the criteria listed below. They must:

- operate a business located in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire
- be a participant in the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper Payment scheme
- employ people
- be registered with WorkSafe on 30 June 2020
- have an annual payroll of less than \$3 million in 2019-20 on an ungrouped basis
- be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) as at 30 June 2020
- hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 30 June 2020
- be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator.

Businesses that have received funding from other components of the Victorian Government's Economic Survival Package are eligible to apply for this program.

Business owners that do not employ people (non-employing businesses) are not eligible for funding through this program. Employing businesses must provide their WorkCover Employer Number in the application form for verification.

4How can the funding be used?

Grant funds, for example, may be used to assist the business with:

- meeting business costs, including utilities, salaries or rent
- seeking financial, legal or other advice to support business continuity planning

- developing the business through marketing and communications activities
- any other supporting activities related to the operation of the business.

5 Important application information

Eligible businesses are invited to apply for a one-off grant of \$5,000. A business, as defined by its ABN, can only receive one grant under this Fund.

As part of the assessment process, evidence provided by applicants may be subject to a check with other government agencies including the State Revenue Office, Worksafe and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

Circumstances that may be taken into consideration in any decision whether to award a grant include:

- any adverse findings by a regulator regarding a business
- if a business is placed under external administration
- if there is a petition to wind up or deregister a company or business
- if the business is, or becomes, deregistered or unregistered (including cancellation or lapse in registration).

Applicants must ensure that their Australian Business Number (ABN) registration information and registration with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission is up-to-date and current as at the time of application.

Applicants are required to apply online via the Business Victoria website. All questions in the application need to be completed to ensure timely assessment.

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions will endeavour to notify all applicants on the outcome of their submitted application within ten business days.

6 What evidence do businesses need to provide to prove eligibility and compliance?

Applicants must certify that they meet the eligibility criteria and must provide evidence of the address of their eligible business operation through their most recent:

- utility bill (gas, electricity, telecommunications, water);
- lease agreement; or
- council rate notice.

See the [Example of acceptable proof of eligibility documents \(PDF 2842.06 KB\)](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1913926/Example-of-acceptable-proof-of-eligibility-documents.pdf) (https://www.business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1913926/Example-of-acceptable-proof-of-eligibility-documents.pdf)

Applicants must also provide evidence of their participation in the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper Payment scheme. The evidence required will be the most recent JobKeeper Business Monthly Declaration Receipt ID or Enrolment ID generated from the Australian Taxation Office Business Portal.

Applicants are subject to a risk assessment which verifies business details provided with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissioner (ACNC), Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) and/or other applicable regulators.

Applicants will be subject to an 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 of the business in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in these guidelines and attached application, the grant will be repayable to the Victorian Government on demand.

Jobkeeper example documents

[JobKeeper business monthly declaration example \(PDF 879.4 KB\)](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1913928/JobKeeper-business-monthly-declaration-example.pdf) (https://www.business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1913928/JobKeeper-business-monthly-declaration-example.pdf)

[JobKeeper enrolment form example \(PDF 1875.95 KB\)](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1913929/JobKeeper-enrolment-form-example.pdf) (https://www.business.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1913929/JobKeeper-enrolment-form-example.pdf)

Applicants are subject to a risk assessment which verifies business details provided with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissioner (ACNC), Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) and/or other applicable regulators.

Applicants will be subject to an 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 of the business in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in these guidelines and attached application, the grant will be repayable to the Victorian Government on demand.

7 Fine print

- Sole traders and partnerships must employ persons other than themselves to be eligible.
- The applicant must be able to provide a 'WorkCover employer number'.
- Not-for-profit entities and charities with annual revenue between \$75,000 and \$150,000 that are not registered for GST and are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) are eligible to apply.
- To be eligible, applicants are required to be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator as required by the relevant and applicable legislation. Relevant regulators are the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC); the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) for charities and not-for-profits; Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) for incorporated associations.

8 How to apply

Applicants must submit an application online via the 'Apply now' button on this page.

All questions in the application must be completed and any requested documentation attached to ensure timely assessment and grant payment.

If you have further questions please refer to the [Business Support Fund - Expansion FAQs](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/business-support-fund-faqs) (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/business-support-fund-faqs>).

If you require further assistance please [contact us](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/contact-us) (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/contact-us>) or call 13 22 15.

9 Business Support Fund - Expansion in languages other than English

[Arabic - العربية](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/arabic) (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/arabic>)

Simplified Chinese - 简体中文 (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/simplified-chinese>)

Traditional Chinese - 繁體中文 (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/traditional-chinese>)

Hindi - हिन्दी (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/hindi>)

Punjabi - ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/punjabi>)

Somali - Somali (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/somali>)

Vietnamese - tiếng Việt (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/vietnamese>)

Not what you're looking for?

- **Business Support Package** (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package>)
- **Regional Tourism Accommodation Support Program** (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/regional-tourism-accommodation-support-program>)
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) business support** (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-business-support>)

What's next?

- **Business Support Fund FAQs** (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund/business-support-fund-faqs>)
- **Write a marketing plan** (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/marketing-and-sales/increasing-sales-through-marketing/marketing-plan-template>)
- **Mental health in business** (<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/mental-health-in-business>)

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Program closes in 41 days

Currently open for applications

Unsure about your eligibility? Get in touch with a local **Business Development Manager**

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