

Save Our Stages (SOS): Shuttered Venue Operator Grants

NEW: Established by the recent COVID relief legislation, this program will provide relief in the form of grants to live venue operators or promoters who have been significantly adversely affected by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SBA is working to establish and launch this program in the coming days and weeks.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: What types of businesses and entities are eligible for a Save Our Stages (SOS) Grant?

Answer: Businesses and entities must have been in operation on February 15, 2020 and demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross revenues in the first, second, third, or fourth quarters in 2020 as compared to the same quarter in 2019. Eligible entities include:

- Live venue operators or promoters
- Theatrical producers
- Live performing arts organization operators
- Museum operators
- Motion picture theatre operators
- Talent representatives

QUESTION: What is the maximum grant amount that my venue or business can receive?

Answer: The Small Business Administration may award an initial grant of up to \$10 million dollars and, if funding is available, a supplemental grant that is equal to 50% of the initial grant. However, the total amount received by an entity for an initial and supplemental grant may not exceed \$10 million.

QUESTION: How is the grant award amount calculated?

Answer: Grant awards are calculated based on which is the lesser amount of:

- I. The amount equal to 45% of the gross earned revenue during 2019, if in operation on January 1, 2019 (for entities that began operations after January 1, 2019, this amount would be equal to 6x the average monthly gross earned revenue for each full month during 2019); and
- II. \$10,000,000

QUESTION: When will I receive my SOS grant?

Answer: Grants will be awarded based on the amount of financial loss that your operation has experienced:

- In the initial 14-day period of implementation, the Small Business Administration will award grants to eligible entities that have experienced a 90% or greater revenue loss between April 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020, as compared to the same period in 2019.
- In the next 14-day period after the first 14-day period of implementation, the Small Business Administration will award grants to eligible entities that have experienced a 70% or greater revenue loss between April 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020, as compared

to the same period in 2019.

- After these two periods, grants will be awarded to all other eligible entities.

QUESTION: My eligible entity employs less than 50 people full-time. What protections are in place for small operators like me?
Answer:

In the initial 60 days of implementation, the Small Business Administration will set aside \$2 billion nationwide for small entities that employ less than 50 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. An employee working 30 hours or more per week is one FTE, and an employee working between 10 – 30 hours per week is one-half FTE. After the 60 day period, any remaining funds will be made available to other eligible entities.

QUESTION: What are eligible uses of the Shuttered Venue Operator grant?

Answer: Eligible uses include:

- payroll costs
- rent or mortgage
- utilities
- payments made to independent contractors, as reported on Form-1099 MISC
- ordinary business expenses such as maintenance, licensing fees, taxes, operating leases, insurance policies, advertising, and production transportation.
- worker protection items, e.g. personal protective equipment