

SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS GRANTS (LIVE VENUE GRANTS)

Beginning in April 2021, SBA will provide \$16.2 billion in grants to hard-hit live entertainment venues and certain other eligible businesses through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program.

NOTE: If you receive a SVOG grant, it could affect your eligibility for other SBA relief programs. Please see [here](#) for additional information about cross-program implications.

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Live Entertainment Venues/Promoters
- Facilities for the Performing Arts
- Theatrical producers
- Not-for-profit¹ Museums (includes zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, etc.)
- Movie Theaters
- Talent Representatives

Conditions (General)²

To be eligible, entities—

- Must have been operational on or before February 29, 2020.
- Must demonstrate at least a 25% decline in revenue³ in a quarter in 2020, compared to the same quarter in 2019.
- Cannot have more than 2 of the following characteristics:⁴
 - Have more than 500 full-time equivalent employees,⁵
 - Own or operate similar venues in more than 1 country, or
 - Own or operate similar venues in more than 10 U.S. states.
- Must not be owned by a publicly traded company.

Additional Conditions for Live Entertainment Venues/Promoters

Eligible Live Entertainment Venues/Promoters must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Organizes, promotes, produces, manages, or hosts—as a principal business activity—live concerts, comedy shows, theatrical productions, or other events by performing artists; AND either—

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- Earns at least 70% of its revenue from cover charges, ticket sales, production fees, nonprofit educational initiatives, or the sale of event beverages, food, or merchandise; or
- Makes tickets for sale to the public at least 60 days before the event, on average.
- Has a defined performance and audience space.
- Has sound mixing equipment, a public address system, and a lighting rig.
- Employs at least 2 of the following:
 - A sound engineer.
 - A booker.
 - A promoter.
 - A stage manager.
 - Security personnel.
 - A box office manager.
- Requires a paid ticket or cover charge to attend most performances, except for fundraisers or charitable events.⁶
- Markets performances through printed or electronic means.

Additional Conditions for Museums⁷

To be eligible, museums must—

- Have indoor exhibition spaces, and
- Have at least 1 auditorium, theater, or performance or lecture hall with fixed audience seating and regular programming.

Please see the SBA's [SVOG Eligibility Factsheet](#) to learn more about sector-specific eligibility requirements.

FEATURES

Maximum Grant Amount

In general, the grant amount is based on 45% of the employer's gross revenue in 2019, up to \$10 million.

- For entities that began operations after January 1, 2019, the grant amount is based on 6x the average monthly gross revenue in 2019, up to \$10 million.

Supplemental grants are available after the initial 28-day period, capped at 50% of the recipient's initial grant, up to the difference between the initial grant and \$10 million.

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Eligible Uses

Funds can be used to cover the following expenses between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021--with an extension to June 30, 2022 for supplemental grants.

- Payroll Costs,
- Rent,
- Utilities,
- Interest on Preexisting Debt,
- Maintenance Costs,
- Advertising,
- Insurance Payments,
- Theatrical Productions,
- State and Local Taxes,
- Measures to Meet Covid-19 Health And Safety Guidelines
- Payments to Independent Contractors,
- Other Ordinary and Necessary Business Expenses,

NOTE: Any amount not used one year after the initial grant is disbursed must be returned to SBA (or 18 months after the initial grant in the case of supplemental grants).

APPLICATION PROCESS

You can apply for a grant by setting up an [SBA account here](#). Detailed guidance on how to complete an application can be found in SBA's [SVOG Application User Guide](#).

The SBA will reject an application for the following reasons:

- the application is incomplete
- the application is fraudulent
- the applicant fails to meet the definition of an eligible entity
- the applicant lacks the required level of revenue loss
- the applicant possesses one or more
- disqualifying conditions.

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- the applicant is part of a group of affiliated entities that currently has 5 active SVOG applications still pending.
- all available SVOG funding has been exhausted.

NOTE: If an application is denied, the applicant will not be able to appeal or request a reconsideration of the decision.

Priority Access

SBA will issue grants on a first-come, first-served basis, in accordance with the following statutory requirements:

- For the 1st 14 days of the program: Only those experiencing at least a 90% decline or more in revenue³ can apply.
- For the 2nd 14 days: Only those experiencing at least a 70% decline or more in revenue³ can apply.
- After the initial 28-day period, any eligible entity can apply.

Recommended Preparation Activities

- SBA recommends you take the following actions prior to applying:
 - Request a [DUNS number](#) so you can then register in the [System for Award Management](#).
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 - Gather documents that demonstrate you meet employee size limits, revenue decline requirements, and other eligibility criteria.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

For more information on the program, please use the following links or contact your nearest [SBA District Office](#):

- SBA's [SVOG Website](#)
- SBA's [SVOG FAQ](#)
- SBA's [SVOG Webinar](#)
- IRS Form 4506-T [Instructional Video](#)

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1. Includes government-owned museums, as long as they do not also operate other types of venues or engage in other types of activities. For more information, please see the [SBA's website](#).
2. Additional sector-specific requirements for eligibility applies. For convenience, only the additional conditions for live entertainment venues and museums are included in this factsheet—subject to pending SBA rulemaking.
3. For purposes of determining revenue, SBA will generally use gross revenue based on an accrual method of accounting. However, the law allows SBA to use alternative accounting measures for seasonal employers.
4. The same requirements apply to the parent company of the applicant. For purposes of determining if the parent company meets such criteria, general affiliation rules apply. However, grants will be provided to each eligible venue as if they were separate independent businesses.
5. For purposes of this program, any employee working 30 hours or more per week is considered a full-time employee. Employees working at least 10 hours, but fewer than 30 hours, per week will be counted as one-half of a full-time employee. Employees that work less than 10 hours per week are not considered an employee. For more information on how to calculate employee size, please see the [SBA's Shuttered Venue Grant FAQ](#).
6. There's an exception for venues owned or operated by a nonprofit entity that produces free events. However, the events must be produced and managed primarily by paid employees, not by volunteers.
7. The definition of museums includes aquariums, arboretums, botanical gardens, historic houses and sites, nature centers, planetariums, science and technology centers, and zoological parks. (See 20 U.S.C § 9172(1))