

Micro-Grants & Micro-Loans for New York Small Businesses



This document lists pandemic-relief micro-grant and micro-loan programs available to small businesses in New York State, organized by region. The list is not exhaustive, but it may be useful as a helpful starting guide to find grant or loan programs. Do you know of an active micro-grant or micro-loan program that is not on this list? Please forward the information to researchnetwork@nysbdc.org to have it added to the list.

<https://nysbdc.org/>

Updated: February 16, 2021

For information about SBA Coronavirus Small Business Financial Assistance Programs, including PPP and EIDL, please visit [NYSBDC Recovery Resources](#) or [SBA Small Business Guidance and Loan Resources](#).

Another useful tool for finding industry-specific or project-specific pandemic-relief grants is [Grant Station](#), where you can filter results to find relevant information for specific situations. The [New York Foundation for the Arts](#) is maintaining a list of active emergency grants relevant to artists.

*** Some Micro-Loan programs targeted to COVID relief offer special incentives like reduced interest rates, deferred payment periods, waived application fees, or limited collateral requirements. Use [Empire State Development's Alternative Lender Directory](#) or ESD's guide to [Economic Recovery and COVID-19 Loans for Small Businesses](#) to find additional lenders.***

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Capital Region

Micro-Grants

*[Albany Central Ave BID Emergency Grants](#)

Eligible Geography: City of Albany Central Ave BID

CBID has limited Emergency grants and assistance for businesses impacted by the COVID Pandemic, including Emergency PPE, Marketing Grants, and Emergency Repairs.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	
Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren & Washington Counties	COVID-19 Business Interruption Micro- Loan Program	Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board	\$25,000- \$150,000 (1.9% rate)
Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties	Capital Region Advancement Fund	Capital Region Chamber	\$25,000- \$500,000 (1.5% rate)

Central New York

Micro-Grants

[*Onondaga County COVID Small Business Relief Fund](#)

Eligibility: Small businesses and not-for-profit corporations in Onondaga County

OCIDA has allocated funding to provide grants in an amount up to \$10,000 solely for the purpose of acquiring PPE, as defined below or installing fixtures necessary to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID 19.

[*Onondaga County Outdoor Dining Program](#)

The Outdoor Dining Program (ODP) helps restaurants in Onondaga County extend the outdoor dining season by reimbursing Applicants for certain costs incurred in connection with the purchase of certain equipment and other related materials necessary to accomplish said purpose. The ODP Program may reimburse up to 50% of total Qualified Expenses, but not more than \$5,000. Inspection is required to confirm installation of ODP items.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
Cortland County	COVID-19 Business Assistance Loans	Cortland County BDC	\$10,000-\$20,000 (2% rate)
Oswego County	COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Program	Operation Oswego County	\$10,000 max (0% rate)
Cayuga County	COVID-19 Emergency Microloan Program	Cayuga Economic Development Agency	up to \$5,000 (1% rate)

Finger Lakes

Micro-Grants

[*DoorDash Local Restaurant Grants](#)

Eligibility: Erie County or Monroe County, select other US or Canadian cities

Deadline: February 27, 2021

DoorDash is providing grants to restaurants selected through an application process in select cities across the US and Canada. The grants are the second round of funding distributed as part of DoorDash's Main Street Strong Pledge to help restaurants recover and succeed amidst COVID-19 related challenges.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Seneca County	SENIDA Revolving Loan Program Emergency Loans	Seneca County IDA	\$250,000 max (4% rate max)

Long Island

Micro-Grants

[*Nassau County Restaurant Recovery Grant Program](#)

Eligibility: Full-Service Restaurants within Nassau County

Deadline: March 15, 2021

Applications re-opened February 9. Nassau County is launching the Nassau County Restaurant Recovery Program for full-service restaurants located within the County that experienced reductions in sales and/or revenue due to COVID-19 and that are in need of financial assistance to continue to operate or to be able to reopen as allowed by law during the crisis. Up to a \$10,000 grant per business will be awarded for eligible businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of greater than 25% due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Qualified businesses with 0-10 full-time or full-time equivalent employees may receive \$5,000 for eligible reimbursable expenses, while businesses with 11-50 full-time or full-time equivalent employees may receive up to \$10,000 for eligible reimbursable expenses.

[*Town of Islip COVID-19 Emergency PPE Grant](#)

Provides assistance in purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to small businesses located in the Town of Islip.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
New York City, Westchester, and Long Island	Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan	Hebrew Free Loan Society	\$2,000-\$5,000 (0% rate)
Nassau & Suffolk Counties	COVID-19 Economic Recovery Loan Program	Long Island Development Corporation	
Town of Islip	COVID-19 Disaster Loan Program	Islip IDA	\$25,000 max (0% rate)

Mid-Hudson

Micro-Grants

[*Yonkers Micro-Enterprise Stabilization Fund](#)

Eligibility: Yonkers businesses with 5 employees or less

The MESF is a fund created to provide grants to support microenterprises financially impacted by COVID-19. The fund will provide grant capital up to \$10,000 to eligible entities to assist in meeting urgent needs.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, The Bronx, or Fairfield, CT	Community Capital NY Small Business Lending	Community Capital NY	
City of Yonkers	Yonkers State Disaster Emergency Loan	Yonkers IDA	up to \$25,000
New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island	Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan	Hebrew Free Loan Society	\$2,000-\$5,000 (0% rate)

Mohawk Valley

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
Montgomery, Fulton, Oneida, Herkimer, Otsego and Schoharie counties	MVEDD CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund	Mohawk Valley Economic Development District	up to \$200,000 (0-2.44% rate)
Oneida & Herkimer Counties	UIDC Small Business COVID Loan Program	Utica Industrial Development Corporation	\$5,000-\$15,000 (4% rate)
City of Utica	City of Utica COVID-19 Stimulus Funding Program	City of Utica	\$10,000 max (0% rate)

New York City

Micro-Grants

*Interest Rate Reduction Grant

The Interest Rate Reduction Grant will help reduce the interest expense owed on an existing loan with select Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). CDFIs focus on serving businesses who cannot easily access capital and creating opportunities that positively impact the communities they serve. SBS has partnered with 11 CDFIs who work primarily with Asian, Black, Latinx, and immigrant business owners. Businesses must have an existing loan and should contact their CDFI to confirm if they are eligible to apply.

*NYC-Free Face Coverings for Small Businesses & Their Employees

Eligibility: NYC small business with fewer than 100 employees

The City of New York will distribute more than 4 million face coverings citywide to small businesses and their employees as we move toward reopening the local economy.

*Queens Small Business Grants Program

Eligibility: Be located in Queens & Operate as a first-floor storefront business, a second-floor restaurant, or a street vendor

The Queens Small Business Grant Program aims to support Queens small businesses that are minority-owned or located in a low- to moderate-income community or a community hardest hit by COVID-19. The program is a partnership between the City and several community-based organizations and offers grants to Queens businesses and vendors with 20 or fewer employees. Eligible applicants can receive grants equaling three months of their average 2019 revenue, up to \$20,000.

*ROAR Financial Aid for Restaurant Workers

("The latest round of funding has reached capacity. We continue to raise funds and will replenish soon. Please check back.")

Eligibility: Open to part- or full-time restaurant workers who lost work or wages or have extraordinary healthcare expenses on or after March 10, 2020 and live in one of NYC's five boroughs.

A one-time grant of \$500 will be disbursed directly to the applicant. Restaurant workers who are residents of the Bronx and Queens will be prioritized December 1 through December 14. If funds remain after that day, FII will process applications from restaurant workers who are residents of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Staten Island until all the funds have been spent.

[*Citizens Committee for NYC Neighborhood Business Grants](#)

Application now open! Applications accepted on a rolling basis..

Eligibility: NYC small businesses

Small businesses will receive grants of \$5,000 - \$10,000 to maintain payroll and operations. We will prioritize businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women. Proposals that focus on adapting businesses to the challenges of COVID-19 (i.e. delivering orders, fulfilling online requests for products, conducting training and classes online) will also be prioritized.

[*East Harlem Small Business Grant](#)

Eligibility: Small businesses (20 or fewer employees/annual revenue less than \$1M) operating within the boundaries of Manhattan Community District 11.

Union Settlement Business Development Center, under an initiative funded by the NYC Economic Development Corporation, is launching a new opportunity for emergency financial aid specifically directed towards EAST HARLEM'S SMALL BUSINESSES negatively impacted by COVID-19, and in need of financial assistance. The objective of the Grant is to cover up to 3 months of business expenses that might be in arrears.

[*Your Friends in New York™ Business Relief Fund](#)

Designed to provide temporary relief to creative-based businesses owned and operated by minorities and women. Grants from the fund will be presented to creative-based businesses struggling to stay open in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

[* City Bar Justice Center's COVID-19 Small Business Remote Legal Clinic](#)

The CV-19 Clinic is an opportunity for New York City's entrepreneurs and small businesses who have suffered adversely from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis to receive free, limited-scope legal advice. Topics include: loans & grants, contracts & force majeure clauses, employment law matters, real estate and commercial leasing issues, and insurance matters.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
Brooklyn	Bring Back Brooklyn Fund	Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce	\$500-\$10,000 (0% rate)
Manhattan, Queens, & Brooklyn	Emergency Small Business Relief Loan Fund	Renaissance Economic Development Corporation	up to \$50,000 (3% rate)
The Bronx, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, or Fairfield, CT	Community Capital NY Small Business Lending	Community Capital NY	
New York City, Westchester, and Long Island	Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan	Hebrew Free Loan Society	\$2,000-\$5,000 (0% rate)
Low-to moderate income areas in specific New York City zip codes	NYC LMI Storefront Loan	NYC Department of Small Business Services	CURRENTLY CLOSED; SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

North Country

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin & Hamilton Counties	COVID-19 Emergency Business Relief Program	North Country Alliance	\$25,000 max (5% rate)
Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren & Washington Counties	COVID-19 Business Interruption Micro-Loan Program	Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board	\$25,000-\$150,000 (1.9% rate)
Franklin County	Small Business Relief Loan	County of Franklin IDA	\$5,000-\$25,000 (4% rate)

Southern Tier

Micro-Grants

[*City of Binghamton Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program](#)

Eligible Geography: City of Binghamton

The COVID-19 Small Business grant program is designed to provide funding that will allow small businesses to remain open, re-open, and retain jobs. It is designed to provide temporary working capital assistance to eligible food, retail, personal services, and other for-profit businesses.

Micro-Loans

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT & RATE</u>
Binghamton	COVID-19 Emergency Small Business Loan	Binghamton Local Development Corporation	up to \$15,000 (3.25% rate)
Broome County	COVID-19 Emergency Loan Fund	Broome County "The Agency"	

Western New York

Micro-Grants

*City of Buffalo Microenterprise Grant Program

Eligibility: City of Buffalo microenterprises (five employees or fewer); At least 51% of the business's ownership must be considered low-income.

Applications opened February 8. The City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) in partnership with WEDI invite all microenterprises (five or fewer employees) to apply for this reimbursement grant program whereas through this program, eligible businesses may be awarded a grant in an amount up to \$10,000. The majority owners of the business must be considered low income and must provide documentation of their sources (and their household's sources) of income in the application. This program will reimburse business expenses incurred since March 1, 2020 as long as documentation can be provided for these expenses.

*Erie County IDA COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF GRANT

Eligibility: Small businesses & nonprofits with 50 employees or fewer, located in Erie County

Small businesses may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in reimbursement for the costs of acquiring personal protective equipment or installing fixtures necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until New York State Executive Order No. 202 is rescinded or available funds have been expended.

*City of Jamestown CDBG COVID Response Small Business Assistance Grant

Eligibility: for-profit businesses in the city of Jamestown that employ up to fifty (50) employees.

Businesses will be able to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for the purposes of reopening and recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses will be required to provide proof of economic injury due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*DoorDash Local Restaurant Grants

Eligibility: Erie County or Monroe County, select other US or Canadian cities

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Micro-Loans

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Chautauqua County	CCIDA Cares Loan	County of Chautauqua IDA	Up to \$250,000 (2.44% rate)
Erie County	COVID-19 Impact Loan	Erie County IDA	\$25,000- \$250,000 (1% rate)

General Grants

*Raising the Bar Restaurant Recovery Fund

Offers approximately \$3 million in reimbursement grants for up to \$5,000 to eligible businesses. The program is intended to support full-service restaurants – the industry hit hardest by the pandemic – during the winter months when outdoor dining is limited and as restaurants adjust to New York State’s COVID-19 safety restrictions and new mandates. The application portal is available [here](#).

*LISC Small Business Relief Grants

There are currently no upcoming national grant rounds scheduled at this time. Register to sign up for email alerts for future grant opportunities.

*The Go FundMe Small Business Relief Initiative and Fund

The Small Business Relief Fund will issue \$500 matching grants to qualifying businesses that raise at least \$500 on GoFundMe.

*IFundWomen Grants

The IFW COVID-19 Relief Fund provides microgrants to women-owned businesses that are being impacted by this crisis. You can donate to the Relief Fund now or start a campaign on IFW to be considered to receive a grant.

Eligibility: women-owned businesses

***Another useful tool for finding industry-specific or project-specific pandemic-relief grants is [Grant Station](#), where you can filter results to find relevant information for specific situations.

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