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: September 20, 2021

Find COVID-19 and general funding options available nationally or location-specific using this SBA COVID-19 Funding Options tool.

For information about SBA Coronavirus Small Business Financial Assistance Programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG), and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) please visit SBA Small Business Guidance and Loan Resources.

Visit Empire State Development for information on the New York Forward Loan Fund and other Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives.

***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. One additional source beyond those listed below is Empire State Development’s Alternative Lender Directory. ***
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Empire State Development-Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives
Grants, Tax Credits, and Technical Assistance Programs for Businesses Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program

Applications open

This program was created to provide flexible grant assistance to currently viable small businesses, micro-businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations in the State of New York who have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Restaurant Resiliency Program

This $25 million grant program provides funding to restaurants that choose to provide meals and food to people within distressed or under-represented communities. Grant funds will allow restaurants to cover the costs of food, preparation, and delivery of meals to vulnerable populations. Program details are still being finalized.

*Restaurant Return-To-Work Tax Credit

Eligibility: open to eligible restaurants located in New York City, or in an area outside of New York City that was designated an Orange or Red Zone for at least thirty consecutive days

The $35 million Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit Program provides an incentive to COVID-impacted restaurants to bring restaurant staff back-to-work, and to increase hiring at NYS restaurants. Qualifying businesses are eligible for a tax credit of $5,000 per new worker hired, up-to $50,000 per business.

*New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit

The $100 million New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit is a two-year program jump-starting the entertainment industry and support tourism in New York City. The Program will offset some of the costs associated with producing a show as New York’s economy recovers from the COVID 19 pandemic. Companies can receive tax credits of 25% of qualified production expenditures.

*New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF)

The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) is an economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits, and small residential landlords.

https://nysbdc.org/
Capital Region

Micro-Grants
*Schenectady Small Business Assistance Program Grant*

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis for maximum flexibility as funding is made available. To be eligible for the grants, businesses must be located in the City of Schenectady, must employ 10 people or less, and have suffered a 25% loss in revenue since COVID. The program will also prioritize businesses owned by people of color, immigrants, and women, which have weaker access to banking systems and financial support and also businesses that have not received support from federal programs such as the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan or the Paycheck Protection Program.

*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.

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Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000-150,000 (1.9% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties</td>
<td>Capital Region Advancement Fund</td>
<td>Capital Region Chamber</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000-500,000 (1.5% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greene County</td>
<td>Greene County EDC Emergency Loans</td>
<td>Greene County EDC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$10,000-25,000 (0% rate)</td>
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## Central New York Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cortland County</td>
<td>COVID-19 Business Assistance Loans</td>
<td>Cortland County BDC</td>
<td>$10,000-$20,000 (2% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oswego County</td>
<td>COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Program</td>
<td>Operation Oswego County</td>
<td>$10,000 max (0% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayuga County</td>
<td>COVID-19 Emergency Microloan Program</td>
<td>Cayuga Economic Development Agency</td>
<td>up to $5,000 (1% rate)</td>
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[https://nysbdc.org/](https://nysbdc.org/)
Finger Lakes

Micro-Grants
*Monroe County Fast Forward Monroe Grant Program

Deadline: Wednesday, October 8th at 5pm

Eligibility: Monroe County businesses with up to 50 employees

Monroe County’s Fast Forward Monroe program is targeting those who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The effort consists of a grant program designed to provide direct financial aid and customer outreach support to local small businesses, with a focus on those in greatest need. A total of $20 million in grants will be distributed to eligible companies. The grant values are $10,000, $15,000, and $20,000.

*Livingston County Back to Business Funding

Eligibility: Businesses located in Livingston County with 25 or fewer employees

In response to the economic hardships experienced by businesses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, these funds are being used to provide grants to eligible businesses to support customer and staff safety, improve business resiliency, reopen Livingston County businesses to full capacity, and expand businesses to recover revenue quickly.

Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seneca County</td>
<td>SENIDA Revolving Loan Program Emergency Loans</td>
<td>Seneca County IDA</td>
<td>$250,000 max (4% rate max)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Rochester</td>
<td>KIVA Rochester Crowdfunded Loans</td>
<td>Kiva Rochester</td>
<td>$1,000-$5,000 (0% rate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Long Island

Micro-Grants

*Boost Nassau Main Street Recovery Grant Program*

Supports small businesses located within the County that experienced financial hardship 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. Grants of $10,000 per business will be awarded for eligible businesses with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees.

*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.

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Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York City, Westchester, and Long Island</td>
<td><strong>Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan</strong></td>
<td>Hebrew Free Loan Society</td>
<td>$2,000-$5,000 (0% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Islip</td>
<td><strong>COVID-19 Disaster Loan Program</strong></td>
<td>Islip IDA</td>
<td>$25,000 max (0% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau County</td>
<td><strong>Boost Nassau Small Business Recovery Loan Program</strong></td>
<td>Nassau County</td>
<td>$100,000 max (3% rate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mid-Hudson

Micro-Grants

*Dutchess County Microenterprise Stabilization Grant Program*

**Eligibility:** For-profit business located in designated low-to-moderate-income-area in Dutchess County with 5 or fewer employees, including the owner; additional income & hiring requirements.

The county has made $430,000 in grants available to assist microenterprise businesses negatively affected by COVID-19; a microenterprise is defined as a business with five or fewer employees, including the owner. The program will provide grants of up to $10,000 to stabilize microenterprises and preserve low- and moderate-income jobs.

*Westchester County Microenterprise Stabilization Grant Program*

**Eligibility:** For-profit business located in Westchester County with 5 or fewer employees, including the owner; additional income & hiring requirements.

This opportunity, which provides grants up to $10,000, is for eligible small businesses located in lower-income areas across the county that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Grants can only be used to reimburse eligible business expenses as of September 1, 2020.

*City of Poughkeepsie Microenterprise Stabilization Grant Program*

**Eligibility:** For-profit business located in designated low-to-moderate-income-area in the City of Poughkeepsie with 5 or fewer employees, including the owner; additional income & hiring requirements.

The City has made available $200,000 in grants available to assist microenterprise businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19. This will provide grants of up to $10,000 to stabilize microenterprises and preserve low and moderate income jobs.

*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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, The Bronx, or Fairfield, CT</td>
<td><a href="https://nysbdc.org/">Community Capital NY Small Business Lending</a></td>
<td>Community Capital NY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island</td>
<td><a href="https://nysbdc.org/">Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan</a></td>
<td>Hebrew Free Loan Society</td>
<td>$2,000-$5,000 (0% rate)</td>
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## Mohawk Valley
### Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oneida &amp; Herkimer Counties</td>
<td>UIDC Small Business COVID Loan Program</td>
<td>Utica Industrial Development Corporation</td>
<td>$5,000-$15,000 (4% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Utica</td>
<td>City of Utica COVID-19 Stimulus Funding Program</td>
<td>City of Utica</td>
<td>$10,000 max (0% rate)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**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.

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*Citizens Committee for NYC Neighborhood Business Grants*

Applications are now closed and will re-open in Fall 2021.

**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.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>Bring Back Brooklyn Fund</td>
<td>Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>$500-$10,000 (0% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn (BIPOC-owned small business)</td>
<td>Brooklyn EXCELerate Loan Fund</td>
<td>Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Up to $15,000 (0% rate) OR up to $100,000 (2% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manhattan, Queens, &amp; Brooklyn</td>
<td>Emergency Small Business Relief Loan Fund</td>
<td>Renaissance Economic Development Corporation</td>
<td>up to $50,000 (3% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bronx, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, or Fairfield, CT</td>
<td>Community Capital NY Small Business Lending</td>
<td>Community Capital NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City, Westchester, and Long Island</td>
<td>Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan</td>
<td>Hebrew Free Loan Society</td>
<td>$2,000-$5,000 (0% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-to moderate income areas in specific New York City zip codes</td>
<td>NYC LMI Storefront Loan</td>
<td>NYC Department of Small Business Services</td>
<td>Up to $100,000 (0% rate)</td>
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https://nysbdc.org/
## North Country Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin &amp; Hamilton Counties</td>
<td>COVID-19 Emergency Business Relief Program</td>
<td>North Country Alliance</td>
<td>$25,000 max (5% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren &amp; Washington Counties</td>
<td>COVID-19 Business Interruption Micro-Loan Program</td>
<td>Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board</td>
<td>$25,000-$150,000 (1.9% rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Oneida, Oswego, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, Washington counties</td>
<td>AEDC Disaster Microloan Fund</td>
<td>Adirondack Economic Development Corporation</td>
<td>$5,000 (5% rate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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Micro-Loans

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Binghamton</td>
<td>COVID-19 Emergency Small Business Loan</td>
<td>Binghamton Local Development Corporation</td>
<td>up to $15,000 (3.25% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broome County</td>
<td>COVID-19 Emergency Loan Fund</td>
<td>Broome County “The Agency”</td>
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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.

*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.

*Jamestown Renaissance Vibrant Downtown Grants

Jamestown Renaissance Corporation coordinates revitalization strategies to build and make downtown and the adjacent riverfront more attractive for new residents, new businesses, and new investment. There are four active grant programs: “Building and Business Improvement Program”, “Urban E-Commerce”, “Urban Dining”, & “Parklets”. Additional information about these programs available under “Business Development” section of page linked above.
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<tr>
<td>Chautauqua County</td>
<td>CCIDA Cares Loan</td>
<td>County of Chautauqua IDA</td>
<td>Up to $250,000 (2.44% rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erie County</td>
<td>COVID-19 Impact Loan</td>
<td>Erie County IDA</td>
<td>$25,000-$250,000 (1% rate)</td>
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Statewide & General Grants

*Empire State Development-Business Pandemic Recovery Initiatives*

A collection of Grants, Tax Credits, and Technical Assistance Programs for Businesses Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

*OCFS Childcare Stabilization Grants*

**Deadline:** November 30, 2021 at 11:59 PM

The goal of the Child Care Stabilization Grant is to provide financial relief to child care providers to help cover unexpected business costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help stabilize their operations so they may continue to provide care.

*NYS Council on the Arts FY 2022 Funding Opportunities*

NYSCA FY2022 funding will be offered in 4 rounds. Each round is designed to address the most urgent needs of organizations and artists within New York’s nonprofit creative sector. NYSCA’s accelerated, streamlined, and responsive FY2022 grantmaking process will aid in the arts sector’s multi-year recovery from COVID-19 and spur the revitalization of New York’s creative economy.

*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 GoFundMe 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
*SoGal – Black Founder Startup Grant*

**Eligibility:** self-identify as a Black woman or Black nonbinary entrepreneur (inclusive of multiracial Black women and multiracial Black nonbinary folks)

SoGal Foundation has teamed up with Winky Lux, bluemercury, twelveNYC, and other sponsors to make a small step towards progress by providing several $10K and $5K cash grants to Black women or nonbinary entrepreneurs.

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*KKR Small Business Builders*

**Eligibility:** between 5 and 50 employees, less than $7 million USD in annual revenue

Created as a key pillar of KKR’s COVID-19 Relief Effort, KKR Small Business Builders (SBB) aims to support entrepreneurs and their small businesses around the world. The grants are designed to help business owners sustain their enterprises, maintain, or create jobs, and spur economic opportunity as they respond to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and recover from its resultant economic dislocation.

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*CRECIENDO CON TIKTOK, SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FOR LATINX BUSINESS OWNERS*

**Deadline:** September 30th, 2021

**Eligibility:** Small business; Latinx who owns at least 51% of the business & is an active principal

TikTok, HHF and partners have partnered to create a $150,000 Grant Fund aimed at expanding and elevating 30 Small Latinx Businesses across the US. celebrating the perseverance, hard work and commitment of Latinx Business Owners as champions of entrepreneurship during the COVID crisis, the fund will grant cash awards of $5,000 each to selected Latinx business owners from across the country who exemplify those business principles championed through TikTok.

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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.