

WEDC: Applications close June 23 for \$75 million We're All In Small Business Grants

Posted on Friday, Jun 19, 2020

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

MADISON, June 19, 2020 – With the application deadline just days away, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) today announced that more than 16,000 businesses have already applied for the \$75 million **We're All In** Small Business Grant (WSBG) Program. The online application will be open until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23.

The program, which will provide \$2,500 grants to 30,000 small businesses, is designed to help small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, while also encouraging them to adopt best practices to keep employees, customers and communities safe.

“The **We're All In** grants will not be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, so businesses all have the same chance of receiving a grant, regardless of when they apply,” said Missy Hughes, WEDC Secretary and CEO. “Still, we’re encouraging businesses to apply now so that if they have questions, they don’t risk missing out on this important resource.”

Hughes noted that in some cases, businesses have submitted incomplete information, such as not signing W-9 forms or uploading the wrong documents. “It’s really important that people take the extra time to make sure they have everything right before they start the online application process. If they have all the right materials in hand, applying will only take a few minutes.”

Funded primarily by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the grants will help small businesses with the costs of business

interruption or health and safety improvements, wages and salaries, rent, mortgages and inventory.

The online application, FAQs, and other information about the grant can be found at wedc.org/WAI-Small-Business-Grant. The online grant application will be open at the same site from 8 a.m. Monday, June 15, through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 23. WEDC anticipates releasing the first round of payments by the end of June.

A business may apply for the **We're All In** Small Business Grant if it:

- Started operating prior to Jan. 1, 2020, and was operating as of Feb. 2020;
- Is Wisconsin-based and for-profit;
- Employs 20 or fewer full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, including the owner; and
- Has more than \$0 but less than \$1 million in annual revenues.

Businesses will **not** be eligible for the grants if they are:

- Part of a national chain, unless the business is a third-party franchise;
- Industries covered by other Wisconsin CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund programs These are:
 - Crop Production <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/TaxPro/2020/-FarmSupportProgram.aspx>
 - Animal Production or Aquaculture <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/-Pages/TaxPro/2020/FarmSupportProgram.aspx>
 - Lessors of Residential Buildings and Dwellings (<https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/-LocalGovtsGrants/COVID-Grants.aspx>)

To prepare for the online application process, businesses should be ready to upload the following documents to the WEDC application:

- 2018 or 2019 federal tax return for business. (Businesses started in 2020 are not eligible for this grant.)
- **Signed and dated** W-9 form available at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf
- An email or letter of acknowledgement from a community organization indicating the business was in operation in February 2020. Letters or emails can be from any of the following:
 - Chamber of commerce
 - Main Street or Connect Communities organization

- Local business improvement district
- Neighborhood economic development association
- Local economic development organization
- County economic development organization
- Municipality, including tribal government
- County
- Local bank, credit union or community development financial institution
- Regional UW Small Business Development Center: Request online at www.wisconsinsbdc.org/covid-19/#were-all-in
- U.S. Export Assistance Center - Wisconsin
- Regional economic development organization
- Regional Planning Commission
- Trade association

Sample text for a letter or email can be found at wedc.org/WAI-Small-Business--Grant.

- Three-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code that best fits the business. This information may be included in a business's tax return, or through the NAICS website: <https://www.naics.com/naics--code-description/>.

Grant recipients will become **We're All In** businesses by pledging to observe safety protocols in their shops, cafes and places of work to protect their customers, employees, and communities. This network of Main Street businesses will form the backbone of a broader **We're All In** initiative to be joined by major Wisconsin businesses, communities and other associations to encourage support for and demonstrate best health and safety practices in public places.