

South Central Workforce Small Business Grant FAQ

What is this grant?

This Small Business Grant helps small businesses start, recover, or grow. The program is part of Washington's Community Reinvestment Plan and is offered locally through South Central Workforce.

When does the application open and close?

The application opens **March 1, 2026** and closes on **March 27, 2026**

How much money can I get?

Businesses may receive **up to \$5,000**.

What can I use the money for?

Grant funds can be used for: - Training - Inventory - Marketing or advertising - Licenses or permits - Equipment - Basic business operations - Other essential business needs

Who is this grant for?

Priority is given to businesses owned and operated by people who are: - Black - Tribal / Native - Latine - Asian - Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

All eligible small businesses in the service area are encouraged to apply.

Where must my business be located?

Your business must be located in one of these counties: - Yakima - Kittitas - Klickitat - Skamania

Will there be information sessions?

Yes. Community information sessions will be held during March. Please check our social media pages for details.

How do I get updates?

Visit www.scworkforce.org or follow South Central Workforce on Facebook.

Is help available for people with disabilities?

Yes. Help and accommodations are available upon request. Washington Relay Service: 711.

Eligibility & Business Details

What qualifies as a “small business” for this grant?

A small business is a legally operating business located in Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat, or Skamania County. Additional eligibility details will be outlined in the application.

Do I need to be currently operating, or can startups apply?

Startups are allowed to apply. Be prepared to upload your business plan details into the application.

Is there a minimum or maximum number of employees?

There is no specific minimum or maximum number of employees listed at this time. Please refer to the application for full eligibility details.

Do nonprofit businesses qualify?

Yes. Be prepared to upload documentation when applying.

Do home-based or mobile businesses qualify?

Yes. There is no requirement to have a permanent storefront.

Application Process

How do I apply for the grant?

You can apply by: - Visiting www.scworkforce.org - Finding the link on our Facebook page - Reaching out for assistance: - Jensie Rosenow – Jensie.rosenow@scworkforce.org - Susy Moran – susy.moran@scworkforce.org

Is the application available in Spanish?

Yes. The application will be available in Spanish.

What documents are required to apply?

If you are an established business: - Washington State Business License - W-4 - A bank account that can accept ACH deposits

If you are opening a new business: - Business Plan - A bank account that can accept ACH deposits

Can someone help me complete the application?

Yes. - Assistance sessions will be scheduled in March. - You may also contact Jensie Rosenow or Susy Moran for assistance.

Selection & Timeline

How and when are grant recipients selected?

1. March 27th, 2026 at 5pm PST: Application deadline
2. March 30th – April 3rd Applications are reviewed to ensure required documents are complete and valid.
3. April 6th -24th: A review committee scores each application.
4. Decisions are based on scoring and community impact.

When will applicants be notified?

Applicants will be notified by email during the week of April 27, 2026.

When will funds be distributed?

More details will be provided to selected applicants after award notifications.

Funding & Reporting

Is this grant taxable income?

Please consult a tax professional regarding how this grant may impact your taxes.

Do I need to submit receipts or reports?

Receipts will not be required. However, media opportunities to showcase your business will be required.

Support Beyond Funding

Are technical assistance or business coaching services available?

Yes. We offer assistance with the application and can connect you with business coaching and other supports.

Can South Central Workforce help with business planning or licensing?

We can connect you with partners who assist with business planning and licensing.

Will there be follow-up support after the grant is awarded?

We will continue to be available for guidance and connections. Additional monetary support cannot be provided.

Who can I contact for help?

Phone: 509-574-1950

Address: 1205 Ahtanum Ridge Dr., Suite C, Union Gap, WA 98903

Reach out to Jensie Rosenow (Jensie.rosenow@scworkforce.org) or

Susy Moran (susy.moran@scworkforce.org) for assistance in Espanol.