



New pandemic relief funding is now available to small business and nonprofit organization owners in Cumberland County who started their business during the COVID-19 pandemic and **have not** received state or federal recovery funding to address economic impacts of the pandemic.

Read the full [program guidelines](#) and [apply here!](#) Here's what you need to know:

The Grants

Grant amounts range between \$5,000 and \$20,000, depending on the size of the damages. There is a total of \$500,000 available. We intend to award the grants in three segments: December 2023, March 2024, and June 2024. Qualified applicants who do not receive an award in the first round of funding remain eligible in the second and third rounds. Applications for this first round close **December 15 at 11:59 p.m.**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a Maine-based business or nonprofit located in Cumberland County.
- Must have fewer than 250 employees.
- Began operations after Jan. 1, 2020 and before May 11, 2023.
- Suffered negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 and **has not** been reimbursed by any other state or federal pandemic relief program.

Translations:

We're working to get the application translated in Arabic, French, Portuguese, Somali, and Spanish. If you or someone you know needs translated materials, don't hesitate to reach out.

Help Promote:

We encourage you to help promote this opportunity! Use these materials to promote via social media, newsletter, etc.:

- [Promotional Language](#)
- [Square Graphic](#)
- [Rectangular Graphic](#)
- [Instagram Story Graphic](#)

Attend Weekly Office Hours + In-Person Help Session:

Our team will host office hours **every Thursday, 12-1p.m. from Nov.9 - Dec.14** (note: we will not host office hours on Thanksgiving). These office hours are designed to give prospective applicants and partners the opportunity to ask questions and get assistance on the application. [Register for office hour\(s\) here.](#)

We're also hosting an in-person, open-house style help session on **Thursday, November 14 from 5-7 p.m. at 970 Baxter Boulevard** (Greater Portland Council of Governments Office).



Important Note! This program is different than the Domestic Trade Grants, which launched last week. For information on that statewide grant opportunity, visit the [the DECD website](#).

Learn More/Apply:

To learn more and apply, visit newbusinessrecovery.org. If you have questions, email BusinessRecovery@gpcog.org and/or call 207-774-9891 ext. 205.