

BLOOM Grant Program for Small Businesses Based in Boroughs in York County

Grant Guidelines

Eligibility:

- Businesses for this BLOOM Grant must operate and be located in a York County borough and must have revenue generated as of January 31, 2023.
 - Find out if your business operates in a borough by entering your business address here
<https://yorkcountypa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=2bd1d22b506b4dc6badbd2f65943ae2b>
- Applications should be for projects that will improve productivity, expand/improve services, or grow to the next level
- Applicants cannot have more than 50 full or part-time employees.
- Applicants must match 10% of the grant's capital value to show commitment to the project being funded.
- Grant recipients must use the allocated funds within 6 months on the approved expense.
- Applicants cannot be an employee or board member of YCEA or an affiliate board; cannot be a family member of an employee or board member
- While we encourage past BLOOM recipients to apply again for new initiatives, priority shall be given to those who have not received prior BLOOM grants.
- Only for-profit businesses are eligible. Non-profits are not eligible.
- Applicants cannot be a federal, state, or municipal elected or appointed official

Grant Amounts:

Grant amounts will be considered based on need and potential impact.

Grant amounts will range from \$500 to \$1,500

Grant Criteria:

- New Tangible improvements such as:
 - Exterior façade or interior renovations
 - Curb appeal/placemaking enhancements
 - Lighting improvements; safety upgrades both interior and exterior
- Equipment such as improved commercial kitchen equipment, merchandising and display fixtures, point of sale technology upgrades to improve speed and customer experience
- Space expansions/renovations

- Other material improvements to the business that would expand growth, business services, and business opportunity and/or make a positive impact on the overall local business environment.
- Business upgrades and adjustments related to COVID-19 recovery
- Adding or expanding outdoor seating or outdoor retail space
- Expenses related to marketing or advertising

BLOOM Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Owner compensation
- Payroll or payroll taxes
- Mortgage/lease or property tax payments
- Utilities, other recurring operating expenses
- Day to day operating supplies—other than personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Credit card or other debt payment

Priority consideration will be given to:

- While we encourage past BLOOM recipients to apply again for new initiatives, priority shall be given to those who have not received prior BLOOM grants.
- Businesses owned by Veterans
- Businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color
- Preference will be given to companies that use local businesses to fulfill the grant implementation, where applicable.
- [Designated York County Trail Towns Trail-Friendly Businesses](#)

Paperwork Required:

Itemized Budget to support grant request

A Profit and Loss Statement for the Business from January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023

Full 2022 Business Tax Return, unless business began revenue generating operations after January 1, 2023

Signed W-9 (available here - <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>)

Additional items to note

*The BLOOM Business Empowerment Center reserves the right to ask applicants for additional documentation for clarification purposes.

* The BLOOM Business Empowerment Center reserves the right to make the decision to partially fund applicants.

Pitch Competition:

Finalists will be required to participate in a Pitch Competition on the evening of Tuesday, June 20

Finalists will have the opportunity to connect with small business experts to prepare their pitch.