

Coast to Capital Business Recovery Grants - FAQs - (Updated Regularly)

Who can apply for a Business Recovery Grant?

Any established and trading (for at least 1 year) organisation with 1 to 249 full time equivalent workforce and under £46m turnover, who are based and trading in either West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, East Surrey, Croydon, or the Lewes District.

What are Business Recovery Grants designed to do?

There are many reasons you could apply, such as job creation and retention, aid recovery (businesses, social enterprises and charities), bring forward projects, build business resilience, stimulate capital investment, help introduce innovation, increase capacity, improve sales, boost staff productivity, increase imports and exports, boost the local area and economy, stimulate business growth and make your business more competitive.

Can the grant be used to fund revenue items?

No it cannot, grant items must be 100% capital, as this is a 100% capital grant scheme. Revenue costs can however be used to form part of the (minimum of) 50% match your organisation is providing. The capital items listed on your EOI must add up to at least £10,000 in order for your project to be considered.

What is the minimum amount of grant I can apply for?

£10,000

What is the maximum amount of grant I can apply for?

£170,000

How much match funding must my organisation provide?

At least 50% of the overall project value. So, at least £1 of match for every £1 of grant applied for.

What can I apply for with a Business Recovery Grant?

The focus of the Grant should have a clear link to improving employee retention or recruitment, business resilience, aiding recovery, boosting productivity or improving growth through the purchase of capital assets.

What is excluded from a Business Recovery Grant?

The grant cannot fund staff, building work, office furniture, or vehicles of any description.

What can I match the Business Recovery Grant funding with?

Bank loans, Bounce Back Loans, loans from other sources, grants from other sources, business profits, investors, asset finance, Director Investments, or personal funds.

Can I request a Grant towards a project with a total value over £340,000?

Yes, but the maximum that the Coast to Capital Business Recovery Grant can contribute is £170,000.

What criteria will my completed and submitted EOI be scored against?

Your EOI will be scored against the following 4 criteria points, by 2 scorers working independently, to be collated afterwards to arrive at a mean score out of a possible 20 points:

- 1) Sector (a listing of the highest scoring sectors is featured on the main webpage)
- 2) Impact the funding would have on business recovery
- 3) Value for Money (value of grant divided by number of Year 1 jobs created / safeguarded)
- 4) Readiness to spend the grant (the sooner the grant can be spent, the higher it will score)

When do I get to hear if my Business Recovery Grant EOI application has been successful?

Due to demand for this scheme being so high, it is likely that you will not hear about the result of your application for at least 2 weeks. Please note that all correspondence regarding Grants will be handled via email.

Can I apply for software as a grant item?

You are able to use the grant to buy off-the-shelf software, or to pay for a tailor-made software package that someone else has developed or is developing for you, but it cannot be used if the software is being developed by yourself to use yourself or to sell on.

Can I re-apply if my EOI fails?

Yes, you can.

What are the rules around State Aid for this scheme?

The Business Recovery Grant counts towards the total de minimis state aid you're allowed to get over a 3 year period. Coast to Capital has asked you to complete a de minimis declaration confirming that you will not exceed the de minimis state aid threshold of €200,000 (approximately £170,000). If you exceed the de minimis threshold you may still be eligible for funding under the COVID-19 Temporary Framework. If you believe this applies to you, you will be required to obtain independent legal advice and be able to confirm that your application complies with state aid. This will be required to accompany a full application and not required at the Expression of Interest stage. Coast to Capital is unable to provide you with this specialist legal advice. Should you receive funding and it later becomes apparent that you exceeded state aid funding rules then the funding you receive would be subject to claw-back. These links provide some information on State Aid regulations:

https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/covid_19.html

https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/TF_consolidated_version_amended_3_april_8_may_and_29_june_2020_en.pdf

Please note that any Backing Business Fund funding received would not be classed as State Aid, and neither would R&D Tax Credits.

Can I claim for any retrospective spend?

Retrospective spend is not eligible under this scheme, so you cannot submit an EOI for a grant which is paying for costs that have already been spent.

When can I start spending?

Ideally once your offer letter/funding agreement has been signed off, but should you wish to start spending sooner you may do so at your own risk at the point of your EOI being approved (and being invited to Full Application stage), remembering that retrospective spend is not eligible (so, nothing bought before the EOI has been approved can be claimed back using the grant). The approval of an EOI is no guarantee of funding and Coast to Capital are under no obligation to cover any costs should your Full Application fail.

What is the full process from EOI to getting the grant?

Please see the process chart in the "Related Resources" section of the Business Recovery Grants webpage, or click on this link:

https://www.coast2capital.org.uk/storage/downloads/business_recovery_grants_-_process-1598962312.pdf