



**Business  
Growth Hub**  
Thames Valley Berkshire

**Coast to  
Capital  
Growth Hub**

enterpriseMB  
**GROWTHHUB**  
LET'S TALK GROWTH



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund



**HM Government**

## **Kickstart Tourism and Restart & Recovery SME Grant Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When will the grants be launched?**

The call for expressions of interest will open at midday (12pm) on Tuesday September 15th 2020.

### **How much funding can I apply for?**

Business can apply for grants of between £1000 to £3000 with up to £5000 in exceptional circumstances.

### **What is an 'exceptional circumstance'?**

The grants offered are for between £1000 - £3000, however in a limited number of circumstances, businesses can apply for up to £5000. We have a very small number of ringfenced grants available for businesses which cannot purchase their service or product for less than £3000.

However, as these grants are assessed on an individual basis, we cannot guarantee the availability of lower grants should you be unsuccessful for a grant application of over £3000.

### **How do I know if I am eligible for a grant?**

Visit our [pre-application information page](#) for comprehensive information on the eligibility criteria for these grants.

### **Can I apply for both grants?**

No. Businesses cannot apply for both grants. One grant is aimed at those businesses within the visitor economy and the other is for small businesses outside of that area.

### **Can more than one person within a business submit an expression of interest for the same grant?**

No. Only one expression of interest can be made per business. Multiple attempts by businesses to use the Gateway Diagnostic may invalidate your expression of interest.

### **I own multiple businesses, can I apply for a grant for each?**

In principle, yes, however, the businesses would need to be registered individually and be providing separate activities.

### **Can I apply for a grant to cover the costs of a project already underway?**

Grants can only be used for new activity. We cannot fund activity already being undertaken. Work should not be commissioned under your business has received an offer letter.

### **Do I have to put any of my own funds in?**

There is no match funding requirement for these grants, however there will be an upfront cost for the service or product you have chosen to buy with funds being received upon receipt of an invoice.

### **Can I apply if my business started trading after March 1st 2020?**

These grants are specifically aimed at businesses affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As your business was not trading prior to the pandemic you will not be eligible for these grants, however we would encourage you to [contact our Growth Hub](#) for more advice.

### **Do I have to pay the grant back?**

This is a grant rather than a loan, so there it does not need to be repaid. The only instance in which the grant would need to be repaid would be if it was discovered that the application had been made fraudulently.

### **Who decided the eligibility criteria?**

The grants are funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and are governed by the regulations of that funding. Eligible activity has been determined by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government as the Managing Authority for ERDF.

### **Do I have to use a local supplier?**

It would be preferable for local suppliers to be used in order to bolster the local economy, however there is no formal requirement for you to use your grant with a local supplier.

### **I have a disability, how do I get additional help?**

We want our grants to be available to any eligible business, if you have additional needs please get in touch with us no later than 12pm on Monday 14th September.

**What happens if I don't submit my expression of interest in time?**

We expect the call for expressions of interest to close within an hour of opening, so it is essential to be prepared and have all the relevant information described on our [pre-application information page](#) to hand when you begin the Gateway Diagnostic process.

We will use the high level of interest in these grants as evidence that more funding is required and feed this in to government, so you might find it useful to [sign up to our newsletter](#) to keep up to date with any other funding which is announced.

**What do you do with my personal information?**

We are required to comply to EU regulations so we will continue to hold the information of successful applicants for 10 years.