

COVID-19 Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund Guidance.

RATES SUPPORT

The Government will, in line with the eligibility criteria set out in this guidance, reimburse Local Authorities that pay grants to eligible businesses. Central government will fully reimburse Local Authorities.

Under the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) all businesses in England in receipt of either Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) or Rural Rates Relief (RRR) in the business rates system will be eligible for a payment of £10,000

Under the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG), businesses in England that would have been in receipt of the Expanded Retail Discount (which covers retail, hospitality and leisure) on 11 March with a rateable value of less than £51,000 will be eligible for the following cash grants per property.

Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to and including £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000, in line with the eligibility

Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000, in line with the eligibility

Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over are not eligible for this scheme.

Businesses which are not ratepayers in the business rates system are not included in this scheme.

Small Business Grant Fund

Hereditaments included in this scheme are those which on the 11 March 2020 were eligible for relief under the business rate Small Business Rate Relief Scheme (including those with a Rateable Value between £12,000 and £15,000 which receive tapered relief).

Hereditaments that were not eligible for percentage SBRR relief (including those eligible for the Small Business Rate Multiplier) are excluded.

Eligible recipients will receive one grant per hereditament.

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant

Hereditaments which on the 11 March 2020 had a rateable value of less than £51,000 and would have been eligible for a discount under the business rates Expanded Retail Discount Scheme had that scheme been in force for that date are eligible for the grant. Charities which would otherwise meet this criteria but whose bill for 11 March had been reduced to nil by a local discretionary award should still be considered to be eligible for the RHL grant.

Eligible recipients will receive one grant per hereditament.

Exclusions to RHLG

Recipients eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund will not be eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

Hereditaments occupied for personal uses. Examples of where there may be personal use include private stables and loose boxes, beach huts and moorings.

Car parks and parking spaces.

For the avoidance of doubt, businesses which as of the 11 March were in liquidation or were dissolved will not be eligible.

Hereditaments with a rateable value of £51,000 or over.

Only one grant may be awarded per hereditament

Who will receive this funding?

The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the hereditament on the 11 March 2020.

Where the Local Authority has reason to believe that the information that they hold about the ratepayer on the 11 March 2020 is inaccurate they may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer. Local Authorities should make clear to recipients that the grant is for the ratepayer and may be liable for recovery if the recipient was not the ratepayer on the eligible day.

The Local Authority must either call or write to the business, stating that by accepting the grant payment, the business confirms that they are eligible for the grant schemes. This includes where Local Authorities already have bank details for businesses, and are in a position to send out funding immediately, or where the Local Authority is sending a cheque to a business.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?utm_source=cb532f53-6d02-4f50-86d3-767af446c7e2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate