



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Creative Recovery Grant Program (B2B Arts) Eligibility Guidelines

Eligible Businesses

Businesses must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funds available through the Illinois Creative Recovery Grant Program. In addition to meeting these eligibility guidelines, recipients must comply with the Illinois Creative Recovery Grant Program Certifications and Requirements.

- 1) Must be an independently owned and operated for-profit corporation or limited liability corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship authorized to conduct business in the State of Illinois, or a nonprofit operating in Illinois and registered as a 501c organization;
 - a. Venues, museums, or cultural organizations that are part of larger nonprofit organizations, such as a university, are eligible to apply if they are able to provide financial statements that are audited or have been approved by a board or senior leadership of the parent organization and that reflect only the activities of the venue, museum, or cultural organization
- 2) Must have begun operations prior to March 12, 2020, and maintain active operations in Illinois at time of application.
- 3) Must have experienced a loss in earned or contributed revenue of at least \$5,000 due to economic disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4) Must be operating in one of the following industries (details of which businesses meet these industry definitions are in the section below, "Detailed Eligible Industry Definitions"):
 - a. Independent live venue operators
 - b. Performing or presenting arts
 - c. Arts education
 - d. Museum
 - e. Cultural heritage organization
- 5) The following businesses are not eligible:
 - a. independent contractors or freelance workers that do not operate a sole proprietorship;
 - b. businesses that primarily provide child care that have received and/or are registered for [Child Care Restoration Grants](#);
 - c. a private club or business that limits membership for reasons other than capacity;
 - d. a business that derives at least 33% of its gross annual revenue from legal gambling activities;
 - e. a business engaged in pyramid sales, where a participant's primary incentive is based on the sales made by an ever-increasing number of participants;

- f. a business engaged in activities that are prohibited by federal law or applicable law in the jurisdiction where the business is located or conducted. (Included in these activities is the production, servicing, or distribution of otherwise legal products that are to be used in connection with an illegal activity, such as selling drug paraphernalia or operating a motel that knowingly permits illegal prostitution);
- g. a business principally engaged in teaching, instructing, counseling, or indoctrinating religion or religious beliefs, whether in a religious or secular setting;
- h. a government-owned business entity (except for businesses owned or controlled by a Native American tribe);
- i. a business primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities;
- j. a night club or strip club;
- k. a pawn shop;
- l. a liquor store;
- m. an establishment similar to any enumerated above; or
- n. a business in which a majority owner has a financial or familial connection to a director, principal shareholder or leadership member of the Department or Department's partner under the program.

Detailed Eligible Industry Definitions

To qualify for the Illinois Creative Recovery Grant Program, an eligible business must be operating in one of the following industry categories by meeting all of the criteria listed under the category.

Independent live venue operators

- Destination for live entertainment consumers where artistic programming is a main driver of attendance
- Not a publicly traded corporation listed on a stock exchange
- Venue clearly enables performers to receive payment for work by percentage of sales (bar or door cover), a guarantee (in writing or standard contract), or another mutually beneficial formal agreement
- Venue has at least 4 of the following characteristics:
 - Defined performance and audience space
 - Mixing equipment or a public address system
 - Back line
 - Engages one or more individuals to carry out at least 2 of the following roles:
 - Sound engineer
 - Booker
 - Promoter
 - Stage manager
 - Security personnel
 - Box office manager
 - There is a paid ticket or cover charge to attend some performances through ticketing or door entrance fee
 - Performances are marked through listings in printed or electronic publications, on websites, visible calendar of events, or on social media

Performing or presenting arts

- Businesses, including sole proprietors, whose operations are primarily in the performing or presenting arts, or organizations where the primary mission or integral to the primary mission is the performance or presentation of the arts to the public.
- Artistic disciplines under this category include the following:
 - Dance
 - Film
 - Literary arts
 - Media arts
 - Music
 - Theater
 - Visual arts

Arts education

- Businesses, including sole proprietors, where a dedicated portion of business operations are focused on providing arts education, or organizations where the primary mission or integral to the primary mission is the provision of arts learning.

Museum

- In service to the public
- Dedicated to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects, archival materials, ephemera, or live specimens, of lasting interest or value

Cultural heritage organization

- A business or organization that meets at least one of the following:
 - A community cultural and arts center
 - An ethnic and cultural awareness organization
 - A festival focused on promoting and preserving ethnic, cultural, racial, regional, linguistic, or religious traditions