



City of Westminster

Round 2 of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme

The allocation for these funds from central government has been based on the number of residents within the borough, not the number of businesses per borough and as such Westminster's original allocation was limited to only £5.2m. All Local Authorities have since received top-up funding from central government, still based on the number of residents formula. Westminster City Council's top-up allocation is £2.3m bringing the total funding envelope to £7.5m.

The eligibility criteria has been determined following Cabinet Member direction. Following the first round of the scheme and the receipt of the top-up allocation from central government, the City Council has revised the eligibility criteria for the scheme and increased the value of individual grant awards as follows:

- Previous Discretionary Grant Fund recipients who are in non-essential retail, hospitality or leisure; who supply the first-tier retail, hospitality or leisure sectors; and businesses within the events sector will now be eligible to apply.
- Successful applicants through the first round of ARG to receive a top-up of £3,000 to their originally approved £2000 grant award.
- Enhancing the grants from £2,000 to £5000 per business for new successful applicants through the second and possibly final round of the scheme.

Therefore only businesses who fall under one of the below three categories will be eligible to apply:

- non-ratepayers in non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality business (including, hotel and bed and breakfast accommodation and leisure businesses) which are effectively forced to close or have been severely impacted by the restrictions. This includes previous Discretionary Grant Fund recipients
- ratepayer or non-ratepayer businesses that supply (first tier) the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, including previous grant Discretionary Grant Fund recipients
- ratepayer or non-ratepayer businesses in the events sector, including previous Discretionary Grant Fund recipients

Due to the limited funding available to the Council, awards will continue to be made on a "first come first served" basis to eligible businesses that provide valid application forms together with all of the requested documentary evidence.

The scheme will be administered until the funding pot has been fully exhausted. Business who fail to submit all of the relevant documentary evidence in the time-frame stated on their application correspondence will have their applications discontinued.



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Please only submit an application to the City Council if you believe your business falls under one of the three listed business categories.

Due to the limited funding available to the Council, the scheme will continue to operate on a first come first served basis to eligible businesses that provide valid completed application forms together with all of the requested documentary evidence. Please only submit an application if you believe your business meets all of the mandatory criteria for the scheme.

The scheme will re-open at 12pm on Friday 26th February 2021 (tomorrow). The link to submit an application will be made available on the City Council's website here once the scheme goes live.

In total, the process will involve the completion of 2 forms, an initial pre-screening form and a full application form. Upon successful completion of the two forms businesses will then be required to submit supporting documentation via email for audit and compliance purposes.

Beyond standard details, we recommend having the following information to hand in order to help you complete the forms:

- trading/registered Address
- Company Registration Number / Charity Number (if applicable)
- Unique Tax Reference Number (if applicable)
- links to online presence (if applicable)
- information regarding the pandemic's impact on the business (e.g. estimated percentage drop in sales)
- Business Rates Account Number (if applicable)
- bank details for the payment of a grant
- Due to the limited funding available to the Council, awards will be made on a "first come first served" basis to eligible businesses that provide valid completed application forms together with all of the requested documentary evidence.

In the event that you encounter any issues with the application process, please contact the **Westminster Business Unit**:

Email: businessunit@westminster.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7641 2070