



MCS



**Boyle Heights Lineage Fire Business Assistance,
Workforce Stabilization and Layoff Aversion Business Grant**
LAST UPDATED: 10/12/2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: How do I apply?

A: Follow the link or scan the QR code to access the application on your computer or mobile device. Create an account in the online application system, then complete and submit your business application. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation and be scheduled for an application appointment with a partner agency.

Q: Can the online application be saved and returned to later?

A: Yes. You will create a username and password for the online application system, allowing you to save your progress and return to your application at any time before submitting it.

Q: Where can I access the application, Q&A, and presentation materials?

A: The application and additional grant information are available at boyleheightsbizrecovery.com. The website includes this FAQ, the latest Q&A, a list of required documents to gather before submitting your application, plus a sample application. Applicants can use the sample to prepare responses and gather the required information before completing the final application.

Q: Can applicants include supplemental documentation or a supplemental narrative?

A: Yes. Applicants may upload supporting documents such as a supplemental narrative or other relevant materials with their application. All supporting documents will be included for evaluator review.

Q: Are applications reviewed as they are received?

A: Yes. Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Once the initial online application is submitted, applicants will be scheduled for an in-person meeting as part of the application process.

Q: Will you host an informational webinar?

A: Yes. Informational webinars will be offered online and recorded for those who are unable to attend a live session.

Q: How long are applications open?

A: The anticipated application period begins October 13, 2026. The grant application period will close based on the number of applications received and the availability of grant funds. The application period may close earlier if there is high demand. Impacted businesses are encouraged to submit a complete application as soon as possible to ensure their application is reviewed for eligibility and consideration.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Who is eligible for this grant?

A: Eligible applicants include City of Los Angeles businesses directly impacted by the Lineage Fire that operate as a corporation, limited liability company (LLC), partnership, or sole proprietorship with at least one employee other than the proprietor.

Q: Are nonprofit organizations eligible to apply?

A: Funding is primarily intended for small, for-profit businesses impacted by the identified closures. However, nonprofits may apply if they meet all eligibility criteria, demonstrate impact, align with program goals, and fulfill all application requirements. Applications will be evaluated based on the strength of the submission and alignment with the intent of the funding.

Q: Are schools eligible to apply?

A: Yes. Schools may apply if they meet all eligibility criteria, demonstrate impact, align with program goals, and fulfill all application requirements. Applications will be evaluated based on the strength of the submission and alignment with the intent of the funding.

Q: How are employees distinguished from independent contractors?

A: Program requirements are based on employee headcount and workforce retention. For these purposes, “employees” refers to W-2 employees rather than independent contractors. Businesses should use their W-2 employee count when reporting workforce numbers and retention commitments.

Q: Can a sole proprietor without formal employees apply if they use contractors?

A: The grant supports business stabilization and layoff aversion by helping businesses adapt operations and retain employees. Sole proprietors without current employees would not otherwise meet the employee-retention intent, but may submit an application explaining their business model.

and how the proposed use of funds could potentially lead to permanent staffing. The City will review the application and proposed activities to determine eligibility.

Q: Is an EDD account number required?

A: Yes. Applicants must provide an EDD account number and be in good standing with the Employment Development Department (EDD).

FUNDING AND ALLOWABLE USES

Q: What are the maximum award amounts?

A: The City has allocated awards of up to \$15,000 for marketing/outreach and/or up to \$30,000 for equipment to support business stabilization or expansion. Awards are subject to funding availability; based on impact and need as determined during the business needs assessment process.

Q: Can grant funds be used to hire new employees or cover payroll?

A: No. Grant funds cannot be used to hire new employees or cover payroll-related expenses.

Q: Can grant funds be used to purchase a vehicle?

A: No. Grant funds cannot be used to purchase a vehicle, as vehicle-related expenses are not considered an eligible use of funding.

Q: What costs should not be included in the funding request?

A: Unallowable costs may result in disqualification. These include rent or back-rent, payroll, employee wages or benefits, utilities, credit card or debt payments, construction or renovation expenses, and transportation or vehicle-related costs. Applicants should carefully review allowable and unallowable expenses to ensure their funding aligns with program requirements.

Q: How will I determine what I can spend my funds on?

A: As part of the application process, businesses will complete a Planned Use of Funds form outlining how grant funds are intended to be used.

Q: If selected, how will I receive my grant funding?

A: If an application is approved for funding, MCS may purchase approved items or services directly based on the applicant's completed Business Needs Assessment and Planned Use of Funds Form. These items will be provided directly to the awardee. If an applicant has recently made similar approved purchases, grants funds may be available to reimburse the business for approved expenses. Potential reimbursements will be reviewed on a case by case basis. All supporting documentation, including original receipts, will be required.

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT AND EVALUATION

Q: What documents do I need to apply?

A: Please visit the website or sample application for a complete list of required documents.

Q: How can a business demonstrate impact from the closures?

A: Businesses must demonstrate a clear connection between closure and its negative impact on operations. Examples may include:

- Measurable loss of revenue or decline in customers following the closure
- Loss of contracts or consistent business tied to the affected company
- Reduced employee hours, wages, or staffing levels
- Layoffs or risk of future layoffs
- Disruptions to supply chains or vendor relationships

For example, a restaurant near the Lineage Warehouse may have experienced fewer customers due to health hazards that kept community members indoors. A childcare provider may have experienced reduced enrollment if families could no longer afford services due to business or income losses following the fire. Applicants should clearly explain how the closure impacted their business and provide supporting documentation when available.

Q: What are the scoring criteria for applications?

A: Applications will be evaluated based on the strength of the submission and alignment with the program's intent. Key considerations include the impact of the closure on the business, a detailed plan for the use of funds, and how the proposed activities will support business stability and employee retention. Strong applications should include a cohesive narrative, well-defined budget, and measurable outcomes tied to the requested funds.

Q: How is my information or data stored and how will my information be reviewed?

A: Applications are stored on a secure server through an application management system that is SOC 2 and HIPAA compliant. Applications are reviewed by a small, impartial selection committee made up of workforce development stakeholders.

Q: Who is the grant administrator/agency?

A: The Boyle Heights WorkSource Center operator, Managed Career Solutions (MCS).

Q: What if I made a mistake in my application or accidentally attached the wrong form and I have submitted it?

A: Please contact the City of LA's Community Investment Department resources@lacity.gov

Q: What if I need to reopen a submitted application?

A: You will be put in touch with the grant administrator, please contact City of LA's Community Investment Department for the connection resources@lacity.gov

Q: How do I get in touch if I have questions about my application?

A: Applicants may reach out to resources@lacity.gov via email with any questions and/or concerns. For direct technical assistance with the application, and Business Needs Assessment, please contact the East LA BusinessSource Center (operated by NEW) at (323) 568-1520 or ELABSC@neworg.us

Q: What do I do next after I submit my application online? What is Part 2?

A: Part 2 will be completed directly in-person with New Economics for Women (NEW). Once you submit your online application, you will be contacted by NEW to schedule an appointment for your Business Needs Assessment and to complete your Planned Use of Grant Funds Form.

Q: What if I recently opened my business and do not have all the required documents?

A: The East LA BusinessSource Center (operated by NEW) can provide direct technical assistance to applicants, including guidance on required documentation. Please contact the City of LA's Community Investment Department for the connection to NEW.

Q: Who is the agency providing technical assistance?

A: The East Los Angeles BusinessSource Center (operated by NEW) will provide direct technical assistance to applicants.

Q: How will I know if my application is selected?

A: All applicants will be notified via email, text or phone call. Please ensure you have provided your accurate/correct contact information when submitting your application. We will use one or more of these methods for selection status updates and potential grant awards.

Q: How will I get in touch if I have questions about my application?

A: Applicants may reach out to resources@lacity.gov via email with any questions and/or concerns. Please reach out with any program questions, direct technical assistance needs with completing the application, or how to start the Business Needs Assessment. If you would like to have us reach out to you, please fill out the contact me form found on the program website.