

Aid Available for Small Businesses

Small Business Administration

Loans

The SBA works with lenders to provide loans to small businesses. The agency doesn't lend money directly to small business owners. Instead, it sets guidelines for loans made by its partnering lenders, community development organizations, and micro-lending institutions. The SBA reduces risk for lenders and makes it easier for them to access capital. That makes it easier for small businesses to get loans.

You can find more information and lenders [here](#).

Investment Capital

An SBIC is a privately owned company that's licensed and regulated by the SBA. SBICs invest in small businesses in the form of debt and equity. The SBA doesn't invest directly into small businesses, but it does provide funding to qualified SBICs with expertise in certain sectors or industries. Those SBICs then use their private funds, along with SBA-guaranteed funding, to invest in small businesses.

You can find more information and investors [here](#).

Disaster Assistance

The SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. This includes both the COVID-19 EDIL program as well as other disasters. If you are a small businesses, nonprofit organization of any size, or a U.S. agricultural business with 500 or fewer employees that have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, you can apply for the COVID-19 EIDL. Businesses of all sizes located in [declared disaster areas](#), private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters affected by declared disaster, including civil unrest and natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, etc. may apply for the other disaster relief loans.

You can find more information regarding eligibility [here](#).

Surety Bonds

Surety bonds help small businesses win contracts by providing the customer with a guarantee that the work will be completed. Many public and private contracts require surety bonds, which are offered by surety companies. The SBA guarantees surety bonds for certain surety companies, which allows the companies to offer surety bonds to small businesses that might not meet the criteria for other sureties.

You can find more information and authorized agents [here](#).

Grants

SBA provides limited grant funding to eligible community organizations to promote entrepreneurship and certain businesses in specific industries.

COVID-19 Relief Programs

[Paycheck Protection Program](#)

This forgivable loan helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 crisis.

[COVID-19 EIDL](#)

This loan provides economic relief to small businesses and non-profit organizations currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue.

[Shuttered Venues Grant](#)

The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program provides emergency assistance for eligible venues.

You can find information regarding cross-program eligibility [here](#).

Grants for Research and Development

If your small business is engaged in scientific research and development, you may qualify for federal grants under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. These programs encourage small firms to undertake scientific research that helps meet federal research and development objectives and have high potential for commercialization if successful.

You can find more information for these grants [here](#).

Grants for Exporting

The SBA's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) provides financial awards to state and territory governments in order to help small businesses with export development.

You can learn more about the STEP program [here](#).

Additional SBA Associated Award Programs

SBA makes grants to community organizations to help promote entrepreneurship including the Resource Partner programs.

You can find more information regarding the various award programs [here](#).

US Small Business Development Center

COVID-19 Resource Center

The impact of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on Alaskan communities and businesses is changing daily. The Alaska SBDC is here to support and prepare small businesses in the days, weeks, and months to come. Here you will find guidance, updates, and resources to help adapt to an unpredictable situation.

You can find these resources and an overview of the center [here](#).

Alaska Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Assistance Center

The Small Business Assistance Center provides direction for entrepreneurs, start-ups, and existing businesses in Alaska.

Loan Programs:

[Spruce Root Loan Program \(CDFI Lender\)](#)

[Southeast Alaska Revolving Loan Fund](#)

[Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority Loan Participation Program](#)

[State of Alaska Loan Programs \(Division of Economic Development\)](#)