



Main Street Recovery Grants

2021 Grants for COVID Relief and Innovation

Main Street Historic Chestertown is offering grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 for downtown Chestertown businesses affected by the pandemic. The grants are intended to provide relief for COVID-19 losses as well as help with the cost of adaptive strategies and innovations. Please see the guidelines below and the link to the online application. The application portal at mainstreetchestertown.org will be open for ten days, Friday, Feb. 5 through Monday, Feb. 15.

Please note: The application form will not allow you to save information, so please have all information ready before you begin.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the recovery grant program, a business must:

1. Have a physical location in the Main Street District, which operates with the same boundaries set for the Chestertown Historic District (see map [here](#)).
2. Be a registered business in good standing with the State of Maryland and the Town of Chestertown.
3. Have no more than 25 employees.
4. Be a for-profit retail, restaurant, personal- or professional-service business. Nonprofits, medical practices and home-based businesses are *not* eligible.

GRANT MONEY MAY BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Commercial mortgage, rent and utility bills
- Payroll
- Resources to establish or enhance online sales and marketing functions

- Special expenses related to COVID-19 services, adaptations or innovations (such as patio heaters, tents, HVAC upgrades, technology and online sales upgrades, etc.) not covered by previous federal, state, or county grants
- Working capital for inventory
- Fixtures, furnishings and equipment for improved merchandising and customer experience

Successful applicants will be required to spend grant funds within three months and will be required to show proof of the expenditures, i.e., receipts, invoices, product shots, etc.

TIMELINE

Applications will be accepted on the [Main Street Chestertown website](#) from 9 a.m. Friday, February 5 through 5 p.m. Monday, February 15.

Applications will be reviewed by a subcommittee made up of representatives from the Main Street Chestertown Board of Directors and volunteers from the local chapter of SCORE. *Board members who own or are employed by a business that applies for a grant must recuse themselves from all aspects of the review and award process.*

CRITERIA for AWARDS

Criteria for selecting grantees and setting grant amounts will be based on the perceived impact the funding will have on the business and the perceived impact the business has on the local quality of life and the visitor experience. Because of limited funding, not every applicant will receive a grant.

Strong candidates for larger grants will be those businesses that are open more hours, will retain more jobs, fill a consumer need or niche, and exhibit the ability to pivot, innovate and adapt to changing circumstances.

Questions? Contact Manager@mainstreetchestertown.org.