NEW: Long Beach Commercial Rent Assistance Grant

The City of Long Beach is launching a grant program that will help small businesses pay their commercial rent, if they have lost revenue as a result of COVID-19 and State and Local Health Orders that restricted business operations.

The Commercial Rental Assistance Grant is funded by the third round of emergency grant funds from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG CV-3) allocation. Approximately $1.5 million is available for this program. Grants totaling $4,000 are available to help businesses pay commercial lease payments that are outstanding or will become due in the 2021 calendar year.

The Commercial Rental Assistance Grant application period begins June 11, 2021, at noon and closes Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 5 p.m.

To apply, businesses may visit the City's Commercial Rental Assistance Grant webpage, review eligibility requirements and submit an application and all required documentation.

Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

- Be a for-profit business with Long Beach at its location of business.
- Have a Long Beach business license.
- Have 50 or fewer full-time employees.
• Have experienced financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and State and local Health Orders.
• Have a physical location with a current, active commercial lease.
• Be in a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) area.
• Be in compliance with local Health Orders.
• Not be permanently closed.

Grant awards will be based on the actual cost of rent and any applicable charges due under a commercial lease (not to include payments for property taxes and utility payments). Grant payments will be made directly to the applicant (commercial tenant) to cover lease payments.

Businesses that need assistance completing a grant application can receive free help at one of the City’s BizCare pop-ups. The BizCare pop-ups are located at various locations throughout the City and operate on the following schedule:

• Mondays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Admiral Kidd Park, 2125 Santa Fe Ave.
• Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Admiral Kidd Park; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library, 5870 Atlantic Ave.
• Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library and Mark Twain Neighborhood Library, 1401 E. Anaheim St.
• Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mark Twain Neighborhood Library

Information about additional business assistance and resources is available on the City’s Business Support webpage or by contacting the City’s Business Hotline at 562.570.4BIZ (4249).

For more information, please click HERE.

City Extends Application Period for Emergency Rental Assistance Program for Another 30 Days

City of Long Beach for the second time is extending by 30 days the deadline for residential landlords and tenants to apply for the Long Beach Emergency Rental Assistance Program (LB-ERAP).

The new deadline for this program is now July 11, 2021.
All LB-ERAP applications can be submitted via the program’s online information and service portal at [longbeach.gov/erap](http://longbeach.gov/erap). People may call the program support line at 833.358.5372 for assistance Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A second extension of the LB-ERAP application deadline is being provided as additional federal funding, which the City was expecting through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, recently became available. Additional funding of $21.4 million has increased the total program budget to $51.4 million, allowing the City to extend the application period to assist additional applicants. As the State’s eviction moratorium is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2021, these additional funds will help bring tenants current on past due rent to avoid unnecessary evictions.

The program provides rental assistance to residential landlords and income-eligible tenants in Long Beach who have experienced financial loss or economic hardship due to COVID-19. In addition, applicants who only need assistance with utility payments may also apply for the LB-ERAP funding.

LB-ERAP implements the tenant protection laws enacted by the [State of California](https://www.ca.gov). However, LB-ERAP is separate from the State’s rental assistance program, and applicants should not apply to the State program if the unit for which they are seeking assistance is located in Long Beach.

To be eligible, residential tenants must currently be renting the same unit in Long Beach for which they are seeking assistance, and meet the following criteria:

- The household has a household income at or below 80% of the area median income;
- One or more individuals within the household has experienced a financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Other program details are as follows:

- The program will prioritize households at or below 50% of the area median income.
The program will prioritize assisting households with past due rents and lower-income tenants who have been unemployed for 90 days or more and who are at risk of housing instability.

The program will prioritize paying outstanding past due rent and utilities before addressing future rents and utility payments.

Landlords with one or more eligible tenants can apply to get reimbursed for 80% of each eligible tenant’s unpaid rent between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, if they agree to waive the remaining 20% of unpaid rent for that specific time period.

If a landlord is applying on behalf of their tenant, the tenant must also complete the application and provide necessary documentation.

If a tenant is eligible but their landlord chooses not to participate in LB-ERAP, they may apply on their own for 25% of the unpaid rent between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021.

LB-ERAP will help income-eligible tenants pay utilities, both for past due bills and future payments. Tenants can also apply for up to 25% of their rent for up to three months of future rent.

The City began accepting applications for the LB-ERAP on April 12, 2021 and is working to process fully completed applications. Payments to qualified applicants with complete applications have begun and will increase as additional applications are completed.
EVENT: ACCELERATE LONG BEACH // Space & Technology

Join the Long Beach Economic Partnership for Accelerate Long Beach, our quarterly economic forum, where we are exploring the history, present and future of Long Beach’s aerospace, satellite and technology industries. We will hear from the Cal State University, Long Beach Office of Economic Research about Long
Beach’s economic picture, and how the long history of aerospace innovation in the region means the road to Mars goes through the LBC. We’ll also hear from space and technology business leaders on how starting their business in Long Beach or relocating to the area set their company up for success in this increasingly competitive field.

This live, virtual conference is free and open to all. Live Q&A sessions with our speakers and experts will give you a chance to get deeper insight into Long Beach’s economic picture, and the future of the local aerospace and technology industry. The information and data we'll share will be useful not only to those already doing business in the city, but anyone looking to invest here.

For more information, online login information, or to register for this event, please click HERE.

Industry Links

City of Long Beach approves $2.5M in funding to maintain historic Queen Mary ship

New initiative seeks to speed up, streamline Long Beach’s permitting process

Uptown business district to partner with nonprofit to bolster market support, security

For more information, please contact Sergio Ramirez, Deputy Director, Economic Development Department, at sergio.ramirez@longbeach.gov.