

Introducing the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grant

Here's all you need to know

We know how difficult it can be to level up your business when you're short on resources and tools. That's why **Verizon Small Business Digital Ready** is designed to make small business learning free and accessible to all. From courses and live coaching sessions to personalized learning plans, it's a free and easy way to bump up your skills and knowledge.

To further support active users of **Verizon Small Business Digital Ready, Verizon, in partnership with LISC, has allocated \$1M in grant funding to small businesses over the course of 2024.**

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grant?

The Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grant is part of Verizon's commitment to give small businesses the tools and resources they need to thrive in today's digital economy and ultimately benefit their local communities.

In addition to the free courses, coaching sessions, and mentoring offered through the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready program, Verizon, in partnership with LISC will award grant funding to small businesses to further our commitment.

Is my business eligible to apply for the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grant?

To be eligible for this grant application, you must have an account on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready.

To unlock this grant application, you must have an account on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready and complete any combination of two courses or virtual events (including recorded events) **between July 1, 2024 and December 13, 2024**, and submit a grant application by **December 13, 2024**. For example, you can unlock the application by completing one course and one virtual event or two courses, or two virtual events.

Once these requirements have been completed, you will have access to the grant application on the Grants page of the Digital Ready platform. Once unlocked, click "Get Started" to go directly to the application.

Engagements through in-person events are not included towards grant eligibility. Awards will be made to a selection of qualified businesses who apply (not all applicants). Eligibility is based on accurate and complete submission, and priority will be given to businesses located in and/or serving historically under-served communities with limited access to flexible, affordable capital. Non-profit organizations are ineligible for this grant. Applicants may apply for one business only and must be 18 years of age to apply.

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Small business owners who have applied for previous rounds of the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready grants may apply again for the current round. A new application must be submitted for each round, and eligibility criteria for the current round must be met.

When is the current grant application open?

Grant applications are now open and close at **11:59 pm PT on December 13, 2024**. All applicants will be notified about whether or not they have been selected as a grant finalist by **January 10, 2025**.

Is the application available in Spanish?

Yes, the application is available in Spanish. Once you have unlocked the grant application, click on the link to the application. There, you will see the option to complete the application in Spanish. If you are viewing Digital Ready in Spanish, the application will default to Spanish.

Other frequently asked questions

How can I verify if I've completed the eligibility requirements?

Once you have completed the required combination of courses and virtual events, the application will unlock on the Grant page and you will see the option to "Get Started." If you have completed two resources on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready between July 1, 2024 - December 13, 2024 and the application has not unlocked, you can reach out to our support team at digitalready@verizon.com.

Can I change my application after it has been submitted?

No. Once an application is submitted it is final. Review your answers carefully before you submit your application. Please note, your responses may not be saved if you leave the application page before submitting. You may also lose your work if your internet is disconnected or as a result of other potential web browser issues. LISC cannot accept changes to the application once it has been submitted, so please review it carefully. We recommend using the Google Chrome browser for the application process.

Will I receive confirmation after I submit my application?

Every applicant receives a confirmation screen after hitting "done," as well as a follow-up email confirmation, as long as they have filled out all fields correctly. Following these confirmations, the next communication you will receive will be by January 10, 2025 to inform you if you have been selected as a finalist.

Please note that any/all email correspondence related to your grant application will come for a "lisc.org" email address. If you have any questions or concerns about an email regarding your grant application, please reach out to smallbusinessservices@lisc.org.

If I applied in a previous round, do I have to re-apply, or will my application roll over?

Applications do not roll over to later rounds. You must submit a new application for each grant cycle in order to be considered for funding. Each round has unique aspects and application eligibility requirements.

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If I applied in a previous round, am I eligible to apply again and be considered for this round?

Yes, if you meet eligibility requirements for the current round, you may submit a new application for this round, which will be considered.

When filling out the application, I'm seeing the error message "3.1. You're creating a duplicate record. It is recommended you use an existing record instead." What should I do?

Applicants may apply for only one business and submit only one application per round. If you've applied in previous rounds, please submit a new application with the exact same First Name, Last Name and Email Address as you did previously.

How will I be contacted or know if I will receive a grant?

LISC will primarily utilize email to communicate with all applicants. You can expect to hear whether or not you have been selected for funding by January 10, 2025.

Be sure to check your email regularly, including spam folders. Email updates to all applicants will come from the LISC Small Business Grants. Finalists will receive next steps from notifications@lisc.org.

Finalists will be notified by email and must respond promptly. The return of any grantee notification message or document as undeliverable may result in disqualification of the applicable grantee, the forfeiture of his or her interest in the grant, and the selection of a substitute from among all remaining eligible finalists.

What does it mean to be a "finalist" and will there be additional documentation required?

If your business is selected as a finalist, you will be notified via email. Being selected as a finalist does not guarantee that you will receive a grant. As a finalist, additional documentation will be required to screen and verify business information. This may include a background search that LISC will conduct at our expense and submission of additional information including verification information such as date of birth, SSN, TIN/ITIN, EIN, W-9, and appropriate banking information in order to receive funds via ACH if awarded. The background verification does not involve a credit check or credit score pull. LISC will never request copies of personal documentation such as driver's licenses, passports and/or green cards.

Does anything need to be repaid?

No, these grants do not need to be repaid. However, all taxes associated with the acceptance and/or uses of cash awarded are the sole responsibility of the individual grantee. LISC will issue a Form 1099 for these grants.