

Award Process

ARPA Live Event Small Business Assistance

Grant Program

July 28, 2023

Background

Governor Tony Evers directed \$11,076,767.00 for the Live Event Small Business Assistance Grant Program to provide assistance to small businesses providing services to live events. Such an investment is designed to help restore economic activity in Wisconsin following the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to the significant impact the pandemic had on this particular industry. Funding for this assistance is provided to Wisconsin by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. For more information regarding the Live Event Small Business Assistance program, including the grant applications, please visit the Program website: [DOA Live Event Small Business Assistance Grants \(wi.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/doa/live-event-small-business-assistance-grants).

The purpose of this document is to provide interested parties information on the award processes for the Program as defined in the Grant Announcement, issued September 16, 2021. The Grant Announcement provided the following Method of Award governing allocation of funds:

Section 3.4 Method of Award. The State will compile the final review of each application (see Section 3.1). The State intends to make multiple awards. Awards will be based upon qualifying application(s). (*Source: Grant Announcement, p. 5*)

Process-Live Event Small Business Assistance Grant Program

Eligibility.

1. The program received 174 proposals prior to the application deadline of October 15, 2021, at 2:00PM CDT, each of which were reviewed for compliance with the grant announcement.
2. Seventy-eight (78) proposals were disqualified due to applicant ineligibility (e.g. duplicate application submissions, did not have a qualifying loss of operating revenue, did not meet the intent of the program, did not otherwise meet the minimum application requirements).

Budget Adjustment and Awards.

1. There were 96 eligible applications received. The Program adjusted proposals that made requests in excess of the amount identified in Section 3.3 of the Grant Announcement, which stated that grant awards shall not exceed \$200,000 or the amount of the decrease in the applicant's federal taxable income between tax years 2019 and 2020, whichever is less.
2. Due to the very similar nature of this grant program with the Event Venue Assistance program (both programs were designed to assist the live event industry), the program received a number of applications that were ineligible for the Live Event Small Business program; but were eligible for the Event Venue Assistance program. In order to provide assistance to applicants who would have been eligible if they had submitted to the correct grant program, DOA made the determination to fund applications that met the requirements of either the Live Event Small Business grant program or the Event Venue Assistance program.