



COVID-19 MOVIE THEATER GRANT PROGRAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

October 26, 2020

Program Summary

Governor Tony Evers has authorized up to \$10 million in financial assistance to support eligible movie theaters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Evers' press release announcing the assistance is available [here](#). Funding for this assistance is provided to Wisconsin by the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The program is administered by the Department of Administration (DOA). Additional details are available on the [program website](#).

Prior to contacting DOA please consult the Grant Announcement, Grant Application and this Question and Answer document available on the [Program Website](#).

U.S. Department of the Treasury CARES Act guidance can be found [here](#).

FOR ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

DOA will execute grant agreements with successful applicants only after DOA determines that expenses and lost revenues included in an application are reasonably consistent with CARES Act requirements and Program provisions. DOA's execution of grant agreements, however, is not dispositive as to whether any particular cost meets the criteria set forth in the CARES Act. Movie theater owners/operators retain responsibility for demonstrating eligibility of expenses and are required to hold DOA harmless for any audit disallowance related to the eligibility of costs, including repayment of ineligible amounts.

FOR ALL QUESTIONS RELATED TO APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

DOA will not respond to inquiries regarding an applicant's specific eligibility. Each applicant is required to determine its eligibility based on program requirements provided in the Grant Announcement. However, DOA will accept and answer questions seeking clarification of eligibility requirements. DOA will determine applicant eligibility only as a routine matter during the application review process after the application deadline has passed. Applicants should carefully review Section 4. Eligibility Requirements of the Grant Announcement prior to applying.

- 1. I operate an indoor/outdoor mobile entertainment business. We provide screens, audiovisual equipment, and other items for mobile movie viewing. Are we eligible for Movie Theater Grant Program?**

No. See Grant Announcement, Section 1.4, “permanent movie theater locations.” This designation includes movie theaters (indoor and outdoor), drive-in, etc. The venue must be a stationary location.

- 2. Will we receive confirmation that our grant application has been received?**

DOA will supply email confirmation of application receipt upon request. Confirmation of application receipt is not a determination of application completeness nor applicant eligibility.

- 3. I run a 501c(3) theater that is a “venue for performing arts, music, classic movies, and community functions.” Do I qualify for the movie theater grant program?**

No. Eligible applicants are limited to permanent movie theaters.

- 4. An owner/operator purchased a movie theater last year. The theater has been in operation since 1997; the change in ownership occurred in November 2019. Does this movie theater still qualify for the grant?**

Yes, change of ownership does not disqualify a property that was owned and operated by another entity prior to September 1, 2019.

- 5. Our corporation operates multiple theaters through different operating subsidiaries. Do we need one application for parent company or separate applications filed by each operating entity?**

If subsidiaries have unique EIN, each entity will require a separate application.

- 6. My theater is a small single-screen theater and does not currently have any full-time employees. Am I excluded from applying for this grant because I do not have any employees?**

No, the program does not include a threshold requiring a minimum number of employees.

- 7. If I have received funding from other programs, am I still eligible for this program?**

Yes. Receiving other funding is not considered in eligibility determinations. However, per the Grant Announcement, eligible expenses must not be reimbursed and are not under consideration for reimbursement of another program. You must attest that the expenses and lost revenue requested for a Movie Theater Grant does not include amounts received through other programs.

- 8. If we received funds from a PPP loan can we still apply for a grant?**

See Answer 7 above.

- 9. What expenses can be paid from the grant funds?**

See Grant Announcement Section 5.1, Financial Need. Qualifying expenditures include the following:

- Facilities costs to make improvements necessary to provide social distancing and other
- COVID-19 safeguards for employees, patrons and the public.
- Personnel costs necessary to provide social distancing and other COVID-19 safeguards for employees, patrons and the public.
- Cleaning, sanitizing and other costs of COVID-19 mitigation in public areas and facilities.
- Purchases of services or equipment to facilitate telework by employees.
- Expenses to engage with patrons virtually.

10. I do not have a DFI number. My bank stated that I would be defined as a sole proprietor and use my SSN and EIN. What do I need to do to complete the application process?

Sole proprietors are not required to register with DFI. If the DFI number is a required field, please type “not applicable.”

11. Our company operates three different ventures. 2 are corporations with different owners, and one is a sole proprietorship. Each of these three has a separate EIN. Should we still submit a single application?

No, submit separate applications for each legal entity.

12. I got a PPP loan. This barely covered 8 weeks of expenses. Does this disqualify me?

See Answer 7 above.

13. Can you send this slide show to people?

The slideshow is posted on the program website under the “Resources” dropdown.

14. What expenses can be paid with the grant funds? Property taxes?

Property taxes are an ineligible use of funds. See Answer 9 above.

15. Are funds used to replace revenue lost and pay standard bills like utilities?

See Answer 9 above.

16. Do we need to supply the exact finance revenue/loss and expenses with the application?

No.

17. For the contact information on the survey would that be for the person filling out the application or who would be receiving the ACH payment.

Please identify the person most knowledgeable about the application. Attachment A should be signed by an authorized business official.

18. Can the money be used to continue operations? Such as continuing to pay staff?

Yes. See Grant Announcement Section 4.3, Eligible Use of Funds and Section 4.4, Ineligible Uses.

19. My movie theater is a UW campus theater operation. Am I eligible for this grant?

Governmental units including UW campuses are not eligible.

20. Are there percentages for how much of the grant dollars are allocated to revenue loss and how much for additional expenditures?

No.

21. When is the application deadline?

Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.