SEED FUNDING APPLICATION

Application Overview

Thank you for your interest in SEED funding for California residents to start or grow their businesses/nonprofits. Please review the SEED Funding FAQs and this application preview before starting. You must complete the entrepreneurship training on Spark at spark.immigrantsrising.org to apply for SEED funding.

Applicant Eligibility

SEED funding is open to California residents who are starting or growing a business/nonprofit in California that addresses a social problem or community need.

Applicants must identify with at least one of the following:

1. Limited English proficiency, regardless of immigration or citizenship status;
2. Non U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders). This includes individuals who may not be lawfully present in the United States, and individuals who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

IMPORTANT:

Only one individual per business/nonprofit can submit the application. Each individual will only be eligible to receive one grant.

This application will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. You can save your work and resume your application at a later time. We recommend you gather the following materials before you begin:

• California ID
• 2020 Business Tax forms (IRS Form 1040), 2021 Year-to-Date Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, or Financial Statement (you only need one).
• Business Plan
• Itemized budget for how you will use the grant if awarded

Types of Grants

We offer two different types of one-time, non-renewable grants:

1. Developing Business/Nonprofit Owner Grants ($5,000): Grants to individuals starting or growing a business/nonprofit with annual gross business revenue/gross receipts less than $100,000 in the 2020 taxable year.
2. Mature Business/Nonprofit Owner Grants ($10,000): Grants to individuals growing a business/nonprofit with annual gross business revenue/gross receipts more than $100,000 up to $1,000,000 in the 2020 taxable year.
Application Requirements

Applicants must:

1. Complete the online SEED funding application.
2. Provide a CA government-issued photo ID processed by the DMV (e.g., CA driver’s license or CA identification).
3. Provide a business plan with a detailed budget.
4. Provide evidence of gross annual business revenue/gross receipts (if an existing business).
5. Sign an Application Certification.
6. Sign an award letter (if selected to receive a SEED grant).

Application Questions

Please complete the following application to be considered for SEED funding. This application is currently available in Spanish. The application will soon be available in Tagalog and Korean.

Your responses will be securely stored and will only be shared internally with program staff for grant selection and reporting purposes.

If you have any questions about the grant application, please contact us at entrepreneurship@immigrantsrising.org or schedule a time to speak with us here.

Name (first, last): ____________________________________________________________

Email: _______________________________________________________________________________

Please remember to use the same email you used for the Spark registration and the Training Registration.

Grant Eligibility

SEED funding is open to California residents starting or growing a business/nonprofit in California who have limited English proficiency and/or are non U.S. citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents.

Do you live in CA?

☐ Yes
☐ No (You are not eligible for this funding.)

Is your business/nonprofit in CA?

This includes contracting, self-employment and businesses/nonprofits that have not launched yet

☐ Yes
☐ No (You are not eligible for this funding.)
Which of the following describes you?

☐ I have limited English proficiency.
☐ I am a non U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder). (This includes individuals who may not be lawfully present in the United States, and individuals who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS)).
☐ None of the above (You are not eligible for this funding.)

Type of Grant

SEED funding offers two types of one-time, non-renewable grants:

Developing Business/Nonprofit Owner Grants ($5,000): Grants to individuals starting or growing a business/nonprofit with annual gross business revenue/gross receipts valued at less than $100,000 in the 2020 taxable year.

Mature Business/Nonprofit Owner Grants ($10,000): Grants to individuals growing a business/nonprofit with annual gross business revenue/gross receipts valued at $100,000 up to $1,000,000 in the 2020 taxable year.

What was your annual gross business revenue/gross receipts in 2020? ______________________
This includes income from independent contracting; write zero (0) if you have not started the business/nonprofit.
You can include an approximate amount, but you will be required to upload evidence of business revenue at the end of the application. Refer to line 9 on IRS Form 1040.

Which type of grant are you applying for?

☐ $5,000 for “developing businesses/nonprofits”
☐ $10,000 for “mature businesses/nonprofits”

Business/Nonprofits Questions

The next set of questions are about your business/nonprofit.

Are you starting or growing a business or a nonprofit?

☐ Business (this includes independent contracting and incorporated businesses)
☐ Non-Profit
☐ Mixed
☐ Unsure

Name of Business/Nonprofit: ____________________________________________________________
Do you have a new or existing business/nonprofit?

- **New**: business has not launched yet and no sales have been made; nonprofit has not launched and no money has been fundraised.
- **Existing**: business is active and making sales; nonprofit is active and has received some funding.

What is the location of your business/nonprofit?

- Home business/nonprofit
- Mobile business (food truck, street vending)
- Leased business/nonprofit location
- Owned business/nonprofit location

Have you incorporated your business/filed for non-profit status?

- Yes
- No
- In progress
- I don’t know

If “yes” or “in progress”, please select the type of business incorporation:

- Sole proprietorship
- Partnership
- C Corporation
- S Corporation
- LLC
- Worker Cooperative
- Nonprofit (501c3)

If “yes”, what year did you incorporate? _____________________________________________

What year did you start your business/nonprofit? __________________________________________

What percent of time do you spend on the business/nonprofit? _____________________________

For example: If full-time, write 100. If part-time, write 50.

How many employees do you have? _____________________________________________________

Write 0 if you don’t have any employees or are working for yourself.
**Industry Area of the Business**
Please select the industry that best describes your business. For more details about each industry, visit [naics.com/search](http://naics.com/search).

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction
- Utilities
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information
- Finance and Insurance
- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Other Services (except Public Administration)
- Nonprofit Organization
- Other: _____________________________________________ (please explain)

**Briefly describe your business/nonprofit. (250 word limit)**
When and how did you develop the idea for your business/nonprofit? What type of services or products do you offer?
SEED funding is intended for individuals who are operating businesses/nonprofits that address a social problem or community need.

**Tell us how your business/nonprofit is working to address a social problem or community need. (250 word limit)**
Here are some examples: Opening a restaurant that serves healthy, affordable food; Selling home-made products that are environmentally friendly; Offering low-cost or pro bono professional services to low-income clients; A percent of all sales is given to a nonprofit organization; A nonprofit organization that serves immigrants.

**Briefly tell us about yourself and why you think you should receive a SEED grant.**
You may include information about your immigration story, your entrepreneurship journey, or anything to help us learn more about you.

**Please describe any challenges you have personally faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, if any.**
Financing Your Business/Nonprofit

We realize it isn’t easy for immigrant entrepreneurs to raise money for their businesses and we value entrepreneurs who seek many different funding sources. We want to hear about your fundraising efforts and hopes, regardless of how successful you’ve been at raising money.

Have you already tried to raise money to launch or scale this business/nonprofit?  
This includes asking for money from friends, family, banks, loans, etc.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If “yes”, from where have you tried to raise money?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Money Raised ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-financing/using own savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends and family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local bank (i.e. credit union)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National bank (i.e. Chase, Bank of America)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowdfunding (Kiva, Kickstarter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: ____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If “no”, why not? (select all that apply)

☐ I did/do not know where to start  
☐ I did/do not know what options were available to me  
☐ I did/do not know how much money I needed  
☐ I did/do not have an ITIN  
☐ I have not started to build credit  
☐ I have a low credit score  
☐ I don’t want to accrue debt  
☐ I have applied for funding and have been denied  
☐ Other: ____________________________________________
Briefly tell us about your experience raising money for your business/nonprofit. (250 word limit)
Has it been easy or difficult, and why? What support have you received, if any? What support do you need?

In the next year, what is the TOTAL amount of funding you want to raise for your business/nonprofit?

From where do you hope to raise money? (select all that apply)

- Self-financing/using own savings
- Friends and family
- Local bank (i.e. credit union)
- National bank (i.e. Chase, Bank of America)
- Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)
- Community Grants
- Crowdfunding (Kiva, Kickstarter)
- Other: ________________________________
Use of Funds

SEED funding must be used to start or grow a business, not for personal use. If you receive the grant, you will be required to submit evidence of use of funds.

What is your intended use of the SEED funding? (select all that apply)
Refer back to the SEED FAQ to review eligible use of funds.

☐ Business/nonprofit expenses (i.e. incorporation, licenses and permits, training and education (that pertains to the business), supplies, marketing, communications, equipment, and repairs)
☐ Employee expenses (i.e. payroll costs, health care benefits, paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums)
☐ Working capital and overhead (rent, utilities, mortgage principal and interest payments)
☐ Costs associated with re-opening business operations post-COVID
☐ Other: ________________________________________________

Please provide a detailed budget for the amount of money you are requesting ($5,000 or $10,000).
EXAMPLE:
Requesting a $5,000 grant:
$1,200 for business LLC incorporation and business licenses;
$1,800 new computer and software license;
$2,000 to contract a website contractor and a photographer
Support

Besides funding, what other kinds of helpful support could Immigrants Rising provide to you? (select all that apply)

- Getting an ITIN
- Getting an EIN
- Incorporating the business
- Choosing a business structure
- Filing nonprofit status
- Business development training
- Nonprofit development training
- Business mentoring
- Nonprofit mentoring
- Marketing and branding
- Access to financial capital
- Starting or building your credit
- Getting a business permit
- Getting a professional license
- Filing taxes
- Technology training (Zoom, Google Suite, Microsoft Suite)
- Mental health
- English language classes
- Immigration legal support
- Access to higher education
- Reviewing contracts
- Writing a business plan
- Creating a personal budget
- Creating a business/nonprofit budget

Where have you gone to receive support to start or grow your business?

You may list organizations, people, or write “none.”
Uploading

If you have any questions about any of these uploads or run into any issues, please contact us at entrepreneurship@immigrantsrising.org or schedule a time to speak with us here.

Please upload a copy or photo of your CA government-issued ID.
Accepted file types: jpg, png, pdf. To apply for the grant you will need to provide a valid California Identification Card or Driver’s License. Other Identification documents including, but not limited to, driver’s licenses from other states, employment authorization documents, matriculas consulares, and passports, will not be accepted.

Please upload a business plan for your business or nonprofit.
If you do not have a business plan, complete this business plan template (complete, save and upload here); OR if you are using a mobile device, you can use the Centro Community Partners app to create one (complete, save and upload here).

If you have an existing business, please upload your business 2020 Tax Return (Form 1040), Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet, OR Financial Statement (submit only one of these).

Certification Statement

I certify that all information provided as part of this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsified statements on this application in any detail shall be considered sufficient cause for disqualification from further consideration to receive funding. I give my consent to Immigrants Rising to use the information provided herein for the purpose of SEED grant consideration.

Print name here: _________________________________________________________________________