IDA FOUNDATION
1275 K STREET NW, SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.393.6801 | DOWNTOWN.ORG

Backing International Small Restaurants FAQs

Program Overview

1. What is the deadline for restaurant owners/operators to apply?
The program will launch at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time ("ET") on May 12, 2025. The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. ET on **June 30, 2025**.

- Auckland – program launch 2:00 a.m. NZST May 13, 2025, deadline 3:59 p.m. July 1, 2025
- Melbourne and Sydney – program launch 12:00 a.m. AEST May 13, 2025, deadline 1:59 p.m. July 1, 2025
- London and Manchester – program launch 3:00 p.m. May 12, 2025 deadline 4:59 a.m. July 1, 2025

2. What is the selection process?
Applicants apply using the form on the IDA Foundation website. Applicants who do not already have an account with submittable.com will be required to create one in order to submit an Application. Creating an account is free and all applicable Submittable terms apply. The IDA Foundation will decide upon the finalists based upon the priority criteria weighting described below.

3. What is the awarded grant amount?
Grants are available for the following funding amounts in the following cities:

- London and Manchester – 20 grants* of GBP 11,000
- Mexico City – 10 grants of MXN equivalent of USD 10,000
- Melbourne and Sydney – 15 grants* of AUD 23,000
- Auckland – 5 grants of NZD 25,000
- Osaka, Fukuoka, Sapporo, and Tokyo – 10 grants* of JPY 2,100,000
- Montreal and Toronto – 20 grants* of CAD 20,000
- Paris – 10 grants of EUR 13,000
- Madrid and Barcelona – 10 grants* of EUR 13,000

The selected restaurants will enter into a grant agreement with the IDA Foundation outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

* Represents the total number of grants available for listed cities.

4. What are the eligibility criteria for evaluating applicants?
Grant Eligibility Criteria for Eligible Small Restaurants:

- Located within one of the following program cities
  - UK - London (Greater London Authority boundaries) and Manchester (Greater Manchester boundaries)
  - Australia – Melbourne (Greater Melbourne boundaries) and Sydney (Greater Sydney boundaries)
  - New Zealand – Auckland Region
  - Mexico – Mexico City

    - Canada – Montreal and Toronto
    - Japan – Fukuoka, Osaka, Sapporo, and Tokyo
    - France – Paris (Métropole du Grand Paris)
    - Spain – Madrid (Municipality of Madrid Boundaries) and Barcelona (Metropolitan Area of Barcelona)

- Be currently open for business, in operation for more than one year and have a brick and mortar location/storefront.
- Be a small/independently-owned restaurant, café, bar or pub with food offering and not part of a franchise with more than 5 locations
- Have an annual revenue in 2024 of less than:
    - GBP 1 million in London and Manchester
    - MXN 20 million in Mexico City
    - AUD 2 million in Melbourne and Sydney
    - NZD 2 million in Auckland
    - EUR 2 million in Barcelona and Madrid
    - EUR 2 million in Paris
    - CAD 1.5 million in Montreal and Toronto
    - JPY 250 million in Osaka, Fukuoka, Sapporo and Tokyo

Restaurants that meet the above criteria will then be evaluated on the following. Preference will be given to restaurants that best demonstrate:

- Clear use of grant funds and its impact on the restaurant.
- Grant funds must be able to be deployed quickly in a 5 month timeframe
- Contribution to historic, cultural, or community identity
- Explanation of hardships that the restaurant has endured
- Owned and/or operated by or serving members of the community who have been disproportionately impacted by economic challenges or disasters

Acceptance of American Express is not a requirement to be considered for the grant.

5. What is the program timeline?

- May 12: Applications Open at 10:00 am ET
- June 30: Application period closes at 11:59 pm ET
- July: Outreach to Finalists Begins – Additional Documentation Request
- October: Notification to Selected Restaurants
- November: Restaurants Publicly Announced
- November – March: Grant Implementation
- April: Project Completion

6. What is the notification process for successful grant recipients?

Grant recipients will be contacted via email and/or telephone in October. Due to the volume of submissions, applicants who are not selected to receive a grant will not receive separate correspondence.

Applicants may be contacted to submit additional materials, including expanded narratives and detailed grant usage information.

7. How will the funds be disbursed?
Grant recipients will receive the grant in two payments: (1) two-thirds of the grant will be made upon receipt of signed grant agreement, and (2) the remaining one-third of the grant will be made following IDA Foundation's receipt of the final expense report and data reporting. Grantees must spend the full grant amount before being eligible to receive the last one-third of the grant.

8. What reporting requirements must the grant recipients satisfy?
Grant recipients will work with the local partner and IDA Foundation to provide some baseline data at the time the initial grant payment is provided (e.g. data on revenues, employees, etc.). By no later than March 31, 2026, grant recipients will be required to share how the grant has helped their business and share data to show any changes that were enabled by the receipt of the grant.

9. What is the role of the local partner for Backing International Small Restaurants?
IDA Foundation's local partners for the grant program act as our partners on the ground to conduct marketing and outreach to raise awareness of the grant program, advise on the selection process, and support grant recipients and collect information on the application of grant funds once grants are issued. Local partners include the Association for Town and City Management in the UK, Fundacion Placemaking Mexico, IDA Canada, Japan Area Management Network, Centre-ville en Mouvement in France, Confederación Empresarial de Hostelería de España, and Mainstreet Australia.

10. Who is the International Downtown Association Foundation?
The IDA Foundation is the non-profit arm of the International Downtown Association, a Washington, D.C.-based organization empowering place management leaders with knowledge, research, and public policies for creating prosperous city centers, commercial neighborhoods and liveable urban places for all. For more information, please visit https://downtown.org/foundation.

For any other questions, please contact Clay Daneker, IDA Foundation, at **clay@downtown.org**, or call or message IDA Foundation via Whatsapp at +1 (202) 656-5541.

Eligibility

1. Who can apply?
Any restaurant, pub, bar, café with food service in Auckland, Barcelona, Fukuoka, London, Madrid, Manchester, Melbourne, Mexico City, Montreal, Osaka, Paris, Sapporo, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, and which satisfies the eligibility criteria described above can apply. Prior grant recipients of the Backing International Small Restaurant grant program are not eligible for consideration.

2. Who will receive the grant funds?
Grant funds will be awarded directly to the restaurant owner.

3. Are there target populations for these grants?
Although not exclusive, the grant program is focused on venues owned and/or operated by vulnerable members of the community such as those experiencing economic challenges, disasters, or other hardships.

4. Are there specific eligible uses of grant funds?
The grant funds must be used towards critical business needs that support the restaurant for long-term business sustainability. Potential uses could include critical improvements needed to sustain

the business' operations such as enhancing digital capabilities, building outdoor dining spaces, purchasing new equipment and making other physical improvements. Utility costs are a potential use but must not exceed 15% of the grant. Applicants are required to provide an outline of their planned use of funds in their application.

Rent, salaries, loan repayments, food supplies, and alcohol are not eligible grant fund uses.

5. If I own more than one restaurant, can I apply for a grant for multiple restaurants?

A restaurant owner that owns more than one restaurant may apply for a grant for up to five restaurants owned by the restaurant owner; however, a restaurant owner can only receive one grant. Each restaurant must have a unique concept (i.e. not a restaurant with multiple locations serving a similar menu) and must meet the eligibility criteria described above.