

COVID-19 Community Improvement Plan

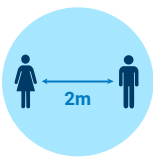




Businesses in Clarington can now apply for grant funding through the COVID-19 Community Improvement Plan (CIP).

The COVID-19 CIP was developed to help qualifying businesses with costs incurred as a result of implementing

safety measures to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 CIP will provide support to businesses to make physical modifications to operate safely, following Public Health protocols.

Financial Incentive Programs

The CIP will provide grant funding for a variety of safety measures with eligible projects receiving up to 90 per cent of costs up to a maximum of \$5,000. The Technology Improvement Grant will cover 50 per cent of costs up to a maximum of \$2,500.

How the program will assist businesses	Examples
Physical Distancing Improvements Grant	
 <p>Implement physical distancing measures to operate or reopen safely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protective hygiene screens and/or barriers • Floor markings to encourage spacing and flow • Signage and displays related to physical distancing • Physical building modifications or reconfigurations
Business Adaptation Grant	
 <p>Physical modifications necessary to support operational changes required for the business to continue to operate or reopen safely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and/or space modifications to provide for curbside pickup service • Change room adaptations • Washroom adaptations • Additional or replacement equipment/furniture
COVID-19-Related Improved Ventilation Grant	
 <p>Retrofit and enhance ventilation and air quality within existing buildings in accordance with COVID-19-related public health requirements and recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heating and air conditioning/ventilation improvements • Improved air purifications systems and air exchange • Window and door replacements that improve energy efficiency and air movement
Adaptation to Outdoor Operation Grant	
 <p>Cost of construction and furnishing of outdoor patio and/or seating areas in response to COVID-19 requirements and recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure/furniture for an outdoor patio, seating or waiting areas • Addition of covered outdoor space • Improvements to provide all-season outdoor spaces
COVID-19-Related Technology Improvement Grant	
 <p>Cost of technological hardware required to safely provide access to the business' products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical infrastructure to improve internet connectivity

General Eligibility Criteria

- 1** Eligible businesses include local, independent retail stores, food services, arts and entertainment, personal care services and medical practitioners.
- 2** The business must operate from a location in Clarington, and be open to the public.
- 3** The business must have been open before March 17, 2020.
- 4** The business must have no fewer than two full-time equivalent (FTE) employees and no more than 50 FTE employees as of March 17, 2020. Food service businesses must have no more than 100 FTE employees. For medical practitioners, no more than three licensed practitioners from the same profession.
- 5** The project must align with the COVID-19 CIP vision and goals.
- 6** The project must follow the Clarington Official Plan, Zoning By-laws, and relevant legislation.
- 7** The business must not be a Home Occupation as per the Zoning By-law.
- 8** Completed projects must meet the Program descriptions and be approved through the application process.
- 9** **Financial Incentive Programs may be combined up to a maximum of \$10,000.** All other applications must be declared.
- 10** All work must have taken place after the Ontario Government declared a state of emergency on March 17, 2020.
- 11** The property must be in good standing related to municipal fees, charges, and taxes.
- 12** The business must meet all general and program-specific criteria, and satisfy a means test.

Means Test Criteria:

1. Minimum 30 per cent revenue loss during the business' most recent fiscal year.
2. Business was solvent, viable, and not bankrupt before March 17, 2020.
3. Must maintain operations for a minimum of six months from application date.
4. Total sales in 2019 less than \$2 million (\$5 million for Food Services).
5. The retained earnings for each arm's length shareholder must be less than \$300,000 in the previous fiscal year.
6. Net income after taxes under \$300,000 per arm's length shareholder/owner during 2019.
7. Funding received from other granting agencies should be declared and cannot be for the projects/expenses being applied for under this COVID-19 CIP Program.

Application and Program Process

