

City of Atlanta Recovery Fund
Frequently Asked Questions
(Updated: June 28, 2024)

1. What is the City of Atlanta Recovery Fund?

The \$7.5 million fund is designed to assist small businesses and their employees adversely affected by the recent water main breaks that impacted certain areas of the city of Atlanta. Eligible small businesses can apply for **grants up to \$10,000** to help recover from water service disruption.

2. When will the application open and close for this grant?

The Atlanta Recovery Fund application will open on June 24th and close on July 8th at 5:00 p.m. Applications will not be accepted after July 8th at 5:00 p.m.

3. Is my business eligible to receive funds?

Your business is eligible to receive funding if the following apply:

- If your business falls within the impact area (please refer to the map on the program webpage); only small businesses within the impact area will be eligible for this grant.
- Business owners must provide proof of their active City of Atlanta 2024 business license and State of Georgia Secretary of State registration.
- Priority given to industries most directly impacted such as restaurants, beauty salons and daycares.
- Application ranking will also consider the number of days the business was impacted.

4. Does the Atlanta Recovery Fund grant provide support for employees of small businesses adversely affected by the water disruption?

The scope of the program was expanded to cover lost wages for small business employees who were unable to work or had reduced worktime during the disruption. Small businesses applying for an Atlanta Recovery Fund grant may request \$200 for each of their eligible employees. Employees cannot apply on their own.

5. How do I apply for the grant?

You can apply for the grant by visiting: www.investatlanta.com/businessrecovery.

6. Is there an advantage to applying early in the application timeframe?

This is not a first-come, first-served program. However, we strongly encourage businesses to get started as soon as possible to help ensure they can submit all the required information and documents.

7. How and when will I be notified if I am awarded the grant?

Notifications to awardees are expected to begin the week of July 29 via the Neighborly application system. Please ensure your contact email address is correct and monitored.

8. If I don't have a City of Atlanta business license, can I still apply?

To be eligible, a business must have an active City of Atlanta 2024 business license.

9. What business types are ineligible?

Certain business types are ineligible based on U.S. Small Business Administration guidelines and the eligibility requirements of previous Invest Atlanta small business grant programs. Review this [list of ineligible businesses](#).

10. How much should my business expect to receive in grant funding?

Grant awards are based on the business's reported annual revenue and number of days affected by the water service disruption, i.e., days under the boil water advisory. Applicants need to provide a verifiable point-of-sale (POS) or accounting system report showing sales for two weeks before and two weeks after the water disruption to demonstrate revenue loss.

11. If I am denied, can I re-apply?

No, grant award decisions will be made after the application period closes. We encourage businesses who do not receive an award to consider other Invest Atlanta small business support programs.

12. Is this a grant that has to be paid back?

No, businesses do not have to pay back the grant, but you are required to follow and complete the compliance process.

13. Who should I contact if I need technical assistance?

Please email your request to ATLBusinessRecoveryFund@investatlanta.com. You can find general information about Invest Atlanta's technical assistance program at www.atlinbusiness.com.

14. Are non-profits eligible?

Non-profits with for-profit activity, e.g., a theater that charges admission for tickets or daycare that charges enrollment fees, may be eligible and are encouraged to apply.

15. If awarded, can I use the funds for personal use?

The funds awarded are to be used to minimize challenges that occurred during the water service disruption. Grant recipients are required to follow grant recipient compliance requirements including an annual grant impact report.

16. What other small business assistance does Invest Atlanta offer?

In addition to the City of Atlanta Recovery Fund, Invest Atlanta offers grant, loan and technical assistance programs to small business. Visit the Invest Atlanta website at www.investatlanta.com for information.

17. Will the businesses who receive a grant be named publicly?

For reporting purposes, information such as the name of the business and award amount will be shared publicly. Invest Atlanta is subject to the Georgia Open Records Act.

18. What is considered a passive business?

A passive business is defined as businesses owned by developers and landlords with no active ties to for-profit business activities at the location.

19. Can a business be considered impacted but not closed still apply?

Yes, eligible businesses impacted by the water service disruption can still apply for the grant.

20. If there is an issue with an application, will there be a correction period?

Yes, this program will allow a single one-time opportunity to cure your application. Applicants will have only 48 hours to address the error. Once the 48 hours have passed with no response, the application will be considered unresponsive.

21. Will I be able to save my progress on the application and come back to it as we gather all the documents needed?

Yes. As you navigate through the application process you will be able to save your information and resume at a later time. Please make note of your Case ID, which will allow for an easier return to your application. We encourage all applicants to review and prepare all required documentation before you submit your application".

22. Does the business need to have a brick and mortar?

Yes, all eligible businesses for the grant must be "brick and mortar" located within the affected areas. *Refer to the map.*

23. If awarded the grant, when will funds be dispersed?

Funds are anticipated to be dispersed to grant recipients before the end of August 2024.