



SDG Economic Development Newsletter



NEW Ontario Small Business Relief Grant of \$10,000

On January 7, 2022 the Ontario government announced an **Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant** for small businesses that are subject to closure under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen. It will provide eligible small businesses with a grant payment of \$10,000.

Eligible small businesses for the "Small Business Relief Grant" include:

- Restaurants and bars;
- Facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities (including fitness centres and gyms);
- Performing arts and cinemas;
- Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions;

Eligible businesses that qualified for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and that are subject to closure under modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen will be pre-screened to verify eligibility and will not need to apply to the new program. Newly established and newly eligible small businesses will need to apply once the application portal opens in the coming weeks. Small businesses

- Meeting or event spaces;
- Tour and guide services;
- Conference centres and convention centres;
- Driving instruction for individuals; and
- Before- and after- school programs.

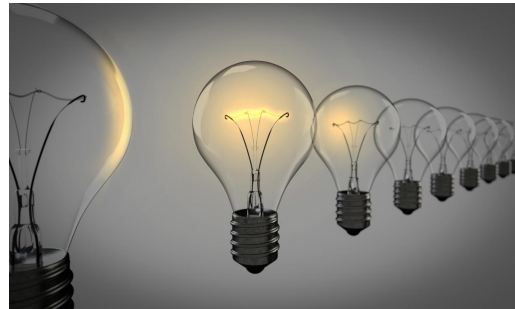
that qualify can expect to receive their payment in February.

Learn more at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/small-business-recovery-resources>

Apply online

Ontario providing electricity-rate relief

The Ontario government is also providing electricity-rate relief to support small businesses, as well as workers and families spending more time at home while the province is in Modified Step Two. For 21 days starting at 12:01 am on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, electricity prices will be set 24 hours a day at the current off-peak rate of 8.2 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is less than half the cost of the current on-peak rate. The off-peak rate will apply automatically to residential, small businesses and farms who pay regulated rates set by the Ontario Energy Board and get a bill from a utility and will benefit customers on both Time-of-Use and Tiered rate plans.



“We know that spending more time at home means using more electricity during the day when prices are higher, that’s why we are moving to off-peak electricity rates 24 hours per day, seven days a week,” said Todd Smith, Minister of Energy. “The off-peak rate will provide immediate savings for families, small businesses and farms as all Ontarians work together to slow the spread of the Omicron variant.”

Ontario Business Cost Rebates Program:

Applications opening January 18, 2022

Eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these measures. Eligible businesses required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their costs, while businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs. A full list of eligible business types will be available through a program guide in mid-January 2022.



Online applications for this program will open January 18, 2022. Payments to eligible businesses will be retroactive to December 19, 2021.

[Learn more](#)

COVID-19 rapid testing and screening in workplaces: Get free rapid tests

The Government of Canada, some provincial/territorial governments and distribution partners are providing free rapid COVID-19 tests to organizations. These tests are to be used for regular workplace screening of employees who are required to be on-site.



Businesses and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

[Visit our Website](#)



Winter is beautiful in SDG.



SDG Counties is dedicated to supporting our residents and businesses. Subscribe to our free newsletter to stay informed about grants, supports and news impacting our community.



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