

## PURPLE LINE LIGHT RAIL PHASE-III GRANT PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### ✓ **Which businesses are eligible for the Purple Line Light Rail Phase-III grant?**

The program is for small businesses adjacent to Purple Line construction corridor and have experienced a negative financial impact due to the construction project.

### ✓ **What are the requirements of my business to be eligible for this grant program?**

To be eligible for the Purple Line phase-III grant, an applicant MUST:

1. be registered and in good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessment & Taxation (SDAT);
2. have suffered revenue loss due to the construction of the Purple Line Light Rail Project;
3. have a physical location adjacent to the construction of the Purple Line Light Rail Project;
4. employ 20 or fewer employees;
5. be independently owned and operated;
6. have not received a Purple Line grants during Phase I or Phase II;
7. not be a subsidiary of another business; and
8. not be dominant in its field of operations.

### ✓ **Do I need to register in the County's Vendor Registration System while applying?**

Yes, the business owner must register in the County's vendor registration system at [www.mcipcc.net](http://www.mcipcc.net)

### ✓ **How will I receive the grant money once I qualify?**

You will be sent a check upon the approval of your application.

### ✓ **How do I apply?**

Applications for the Purple Line Light Rail Phase-III grant must be submitted online via the application portal at <http://Montgomerycountymd.gov/business>

### ✓ **What documents do I need to apply for the program?**

Applicants will be required to submit the following documents with their application

1. A government-issued ID (e.g., Driver's license or passport) of the business owner
2. A completed business W-9. If you do not have a W-9 form, click *here* to download the template.
3. A screenshot from Maryland Business Express of Proof of Good Standing. You can find it at <https://egov.Maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch/Search>

### ✓ **I received the first/second phase of the grant in 2022/3. Can I apply for this grant (Phase III) program?**

Recipients of the first or second Phase grant are **not eligible** for Phase III of the program. Phase I and II awardees, however, may be eligible if funds remain after the completion of Phase III.

### ✓ **What if I cannot provide my documents in time?**

If you are unable to provide any of the required documents by the time of the application, a Business Center staff will work with you throughout the process to ensure that your business receives the grant so long as it meets the program guidelines. A business is encouraged to apply even if they do not have all the documents, so a Business Center staff can assist you through the process.

✓ **Can I submit the application via email?**

No. All applications must be submitted on the designated online portal no later than Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

✓ **I have submitted my application. Will I receive a grant?**

Application submission does not guarantee disbursement unless your business meets the program guidelines.

✓ **When will I receive my funds?**

Disbursement of the funds will occur upon completion of the award recommendation, receipt of required documents, registration in the County's Central Vendor Registration System (CVRS), and receipt of the business's banking information.

✓ **How much are the grant awards?**

Every eligible business that applies and meets all the requirements will receive \$5,000 in Phase III.

✓ **When will I receive my award notification letter?**

We anticipate award notifications to begin by mid-September 2023.

✓ **What can I spend the grant funds on?**

Grant funds can be used for any operational cost associated with the business.

✓ **How do I get more information?**

There will be a series of information sessions on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> in English, Spanish, and Amharic languages respectively. All information sessions are held in person at 8070 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

✓ **Can I ask a question about my materials or application status before or after submitting my application?**

Yes. Please send your inquiries to the program manager directly at [Derese.Bikila@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Derese.Bikila@montgomerycountymd.gov) and/or [BusinessCenter@montgomerycountymg.gov](mailto:BusinessCenter@montgomerycountymg.gov). If you seek help in Spanish, please reach out to Naddia Clute at [Naddia.Clute@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Naddia.Clute@montgomerycountymd.gov).