

COVID-19: SMALL BUSINESS GRANT FUND (SBGF) AND RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT FUND (RHLGF)

KEY FACTS

Government guidance on support for businesses: www.businesssupport.gov.uk

What grant funding is the Government offering?

Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF)

- 1) Under the **Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF)** all businesses in England in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) and Rural Rate Relief (RRR) in the business rates system will be entitled to a payment of £10,000, subject to some detailed eligibility criteria (see below).

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG)

- 2) The government announced in March that occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties liable for business rates would receive a 100% discount on their business rates in respect of the 2020/21 financial year irrespective of their rateable value. This is known as the Expanded Retail Discount.
- 3) Subsequently the government has announced that, in addition to the 100% discount, under the terms of the RHLG scheme business properties in receipt of the Expanded Retail Discount with a rateable value below £51,000 will be entitled to cash grants for each property (hereditament) as follows:
 - a. eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000, subject to eligibility criteria
 - b. eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000, subject to eligibility criteria
- 4) Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over are not eligible for this scheme. Businesses which are not ratepayers in the business rates system are not included in this scheme.
- 5) Only one grant is payable for each property.

Who are the grants payable to?

- 6) The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the property on 11 March 2020.
- 7) Where we have reason to believe that the information that we hold about the ratepayer on the 11 March 2020 is inaccurate we may withhold the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.

How does it work for properties where the landlord or management agent pays the business rates for more than one business in the property?

- 8) Please contact Anglia Revenues Partnership on 01842 756568 to discuss this

What are the detailed eligibility criteria?

Small Business Grant Fund

- 9) Properties which, as at 11 March 2020, were eligible for relief under the business rate **Small Business Rate Relief Scheme (SBRR)** (including those in the £12k - £15k rateable value taper) are entitled to receive a grant under the terms of the Small Business Grant Fund.
- 10) These are properties to which section 43 (4B)(a) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (small business rate relief) applied, and the value of E (as defined in article 3 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Reliefs, thresholds and Amendment) (England) Order 2017, SI 2017 No 2) was greater than 1.
- 11) This excludes properties that were not eligible for percentage SBRR relief but were eligible for the Small Business rate Multiplier.
- 12) Properties which on 11 March 2020 were eligible for relief under the **Rural Rate Relief Scheme** are also entitled to receive a grant under the terms of the Small Business Grant Fund. These are properties to which Section 43 (6B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (rural rate relief) applies.

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant

- 13) Properties which on 11 March 2020 had a rateable value of less than £51,000 and would have been eligible for a discount under the Expanded Retail Discount scheme had that scheme been in force for that date are entitled to receive a grant under the terms of the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme.

Exclusions applying to both schemes

- 14) The following businesses are not eligible for grant assistance:
 - a) Properties occupied for personal uses. Examples of where there may be personal use include private stables and loose boxes, beach huts and moorings;
 - b) Car parks and parking spaces;
 - c) Properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or over; and
 - d) Council properties

State Aid

- 15) State Aid refers to the principle enshrined in European Union (EU) regulations that individual governments may not use state resources on a selective basis to provide organisations with an advantage which might distort competition or trade within the EU.
- 16) Whilst the United Kingdom left the European Union on 31 January 2020 under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement State Aid rules continue to apply.
- 17) If your organisation has received any other other de minimis State aid or any other form of aid/financial support provided under the EU Commission Covid-19 Temporary Framework please provide details as part of the State Aid Declaration included in the declaration form.