

## **Nebraska Announces New Round of COVID-Relief Economic Stabilization Grants – Applications Begin October 21, 2020**

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts has announced a new round of economic stabilization grants using funds made available to the state from the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”).

**Applications for the new round of grants will commence Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 10 a.m.** Many of the grants will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Although in many cases entities that received economic stabilization grants during the first round of grants funded in July (“Round 1”) will not be eligible for additional funds in the new round (“Round 2”), there are several exceptions that will permit additional awards.

***Hotels, Restaurants, Bars, Movie Theaters, Assisted Living Facilities, Events Centers and Licensed Personal Service Providers are among those targeted for new funds.***

Businesses that did not receive funds in Round 1 can also apply.

*Potential applicants who received Round 1 grants should review the eligibility criteria for each grant category to determine if they would be eligible for Round 2.*

Summaries of the grant programs can be found [here](#). There are nine categories of grants:

- Hotels and Convention Centers
  - ***Hotels and convention centers will be eligible for Round 2 even if they received Round 1 funding.***
  - Funding will be awarded based on total square feet of meeting space and allocated among all eligible applicants.
- Restaurants and Bars
  - ***Restaurants and bars will be eligible for Round 2 even if they received Round 1 funding.***
  - Eligible applicants that received Round 1 funding will receive \$12,000.
  - Eligible applicants that did not receive Round 1 funding will receive \$24,000.
- Movie Theaters
  - ***Movie theaters will be eligible for Round 2 even if they received Round 1 funding.***
  - Nebraska theaters that are not permanently closed will receive \$10,000 per screen.

- Charitable Organizations and certain licensed care facilities
  - Charitable organizations must be recognized as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
  - Health facilities or services providers must be licensed in one of several specified categories by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
  - Most eligible entities will receive \$12,000 grants although applicants in areas of high COVID-19 impact will receive \$27,000.
  - Most entities that received Round 1 grants will not be eligible, but ***licensed Assisted Living Facilities and Long-Term Care Facilities will be eligible for Round 2 even if they received Round 1 funding.***
    - Such entities will receive grants based on licensed bed capacity.
- Stand-Alone Events Centers and Sports Arenas
  - Events centers not located within a hotel with 25,000 square feet of indoor space or a minimum of 4,000 fixed seats are eligible.
  - Facilities related to educational institutions are not eligible, nor are golf courses or rodeo grounds.
  - Funds will be allocated based on the entity's total space and number of cancelled events.
- Licensed Personal Services Providers
  - Certain licensed service providers who were not eligible for Round 1 will be eligible for Round 2 if licensed with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.
  - Eligible categories are: body art, nail technology salons, cosmetology and esthetic salons, massage therapists and barbers.
- Centers of Worship
  - Centers of worship can receive \$1,500 grants to assist with disinfecting supplies and personal protective equipment.
  - Entities that received a Round 1 grant will not be eligible for Round 2.

- Small Businesses not receiving Round 1 funds
  - Qualifying Nebraska-owned for-profit businesses that did not receive awards in Round 1 and do not qualify under one of the industry-specific programs can receive a grant of \$12,000.
  - Certain industries are excluded.
- Livestock Producers not receiving Round 1 funds
  - Qualifying Nebraska livestock producers that did not receive awards in Round 1 can receive a grant of \$12,000.
  - Producers must have 10 or fewer employees and 20 or more animal units.

Application must be made online through the application portals. Paper applications will not be accepted.

The CARES Act funds must be spent by December 31, 2020. The intended allocation of the grants is as follows:

- \$48.5 million for nonprofits and care providers.
- \$34 million for hotels and convention centers.
- \$25 million for livestock producers.
- \$22 million for personal service providers.
- \$20 million for restaurants and bars.
- \$20 million for events centers and sports arenas.
- \$3.2 million for movie theaters.

Potential applicants with questions about the grant program can contact Vandennack Weaver attorneys at 402-504-1300 or [info@vwattys.com](mailto:info@vwattys.com).