

RI Minority Business Accelerator Grant Program

Get Ready to Apply Guide for Minority & Woman-owned Businesses

The RI Minority Business Accelerator Grant Program provides grants to qualifying Minority and woman-owned RI businesses to use to grow their business and build for the future. Here are steps you can complete to get ready to apply:

Is your business eligible?

- Confirm you are one or both of the following:**
 - Are you a Minority owned business?** For purposes of this certification, the term “minority” means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:
 - Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);
 - Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race);
 - Portuguese (a person of Portuguese, Brazilian, or other Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race);
 - Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands);
 - American Indian and Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America); or
 - Members of other groups or other individuals found to be economically and socially disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration under § 8(a) of the Small Business Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 637(a).
 - Are you a woman-owned business?** For the purposes of this certification, owned and controlled means a business:
 - That is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one or more minorities or women or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock of which is owned by one or more minorities or women; and
 - Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more such individuals.
- Confirm you meet other eligibility criteria.**
 - Did you complete at least 15 hours of technical assistance through any of the Minority Business Accelerator funded organizations intermediary or the RI Rebounds Technical Assistance Program between September 2023 and now? Please check <https://commerceri.com/business-support/minority-business-accelerator/> for participating organizations.
 - To the extent a business otherwise qualifies based upon the criteria set forth above but has gross income more than \$2 million or more than 100 full and part-time employees, the CONTRACTOR will review the application with the CORPORATION for final determination of qualification based upon specific size standards published by the Small Business Administration.
 - Is your business established and operating in Rhode Island?
 - Sole proprietors: annual business revenue makes up at least 20% of your total annual income.
 - Business is NOT owned by a nationally or regionally owned franchise.
 - Business is NOT permanently closed, NOT in or considering federal bankruptcy or state receivership, and NOT on the federal do not pay list.

Documents needed to apply

This program requires to upload the following documents with the application:

- Certification of completion of 15 or more technical support hours.
- Business Assessment (link to assessment <https://s3.amazonaws.com/support.training.videos/CORE+To+WWW+Redirect+Materials/Simple+Steps+Grow+Web+Assessment.pdf>)
- Budget for grant amount requesting based on the size of your business.
- Budget narrative explaining how this grant will assist your business grow and build for the future.

Evaluation Criteria

Grants from businesses that meet all eligibility requirements will be reviewed based on the following rubric:

	Points
MBE/ WBE Certified	25
Technical support hours received by with an MBA/ RI Rebounds funded organization – Points depending on total number of certified hours completed: At least 15 hours = 10 Less than 25 hours = 15 More than 25 hours = 25	25
Submitted a comprehensive grant budget for appropriate size business	10
Submitted Budget Narrative that demonstrates how the funds will be used to assist the business in growing and building for the future	10
Business Assessment Completed – Points depending on Result Score on page 8 of assessment: Less than 54 points = 5 Less than 75 = 15 Less than 100 = 20 More than 101 = 30	30
Total	100

Need Help?

If you need assistance completing this application or would like translation or interpretation services, please visit <https://commerceri.com/business-support/minority-business-accelerator/> to connect to a partner who can help you complete the application.

Apply Online

Applications will be accepted online. Please check <https://commerceri.com/business-support/minority-business-accelerator/> for more information.

