

\$5K Grant Program: New York

What is the New York \$5,000 Grant?

The New York \$5,000 Grant is part of the broader Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Grant program, which is designed to supplement the hundreds of free courses, coaching sessions, and networking opportunities available through Digital Ready by offering an opportunity for access to capital to eligible small business owners. As part of this year's grant program, Verizon, in partnership with LISC, will award over \$1 million in total grant funding to eligible small businesses nationwide. Through the New York \$5,000 Grant, 25 small business owners located in New York will each be selected to receive a \$5,000 grant.

Who is eligible to apply for the New York \$5,000 Grant?

To be eligible to apply for the New York \$5,000 Grant, you must meet the following criteria:

- Have an account on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready. Complete one resource which can be a Digital Ready course, virtual event (including recorded events), or in-person event* **between January 1, 2026 and March 31, 2026**, and submit a grant application by **March 31, 2026**.
- Be a U.S.-based, for-profit business with a primary business address located in the state of New York. Business address will be required during the application process and verified for applicants who are selected as finalists.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Can share and provide proper business and financial verification documentation (W-9s, ACH) if selected as a finalist.

Current directors, officers, employees and contractors of LISC or Verizon and such individuals' family members (spouse, parents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and spouses of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren) may not be eligible to receive an award. Priority is given to applicants who have not received a prior grant; prior Digital Ready grant recipients are still eligible to apply but not likely to be awarded a second grant.

Awards will be made to a selection of qualified businesses who apply (not all applicants). Eligibility is based on accurate and complete submission of the application.

*Only in-person events listed on the In-Person Events page are eligible. To receive credit, you must scan the event's QR code while onsite. For details on how credit is awarded, please refer to the specific event page.

What is the current grant application timeline?

Grant applications are now open and close at **11:59 pm PT on March 31, 2026**. All applicants will be notified about whether or not they have been selected as a grant finalist by the week of **May 17, 2026**.

Is the application available in Spanish?

Yes, the application is available in Spanish. Once you have unlocked the grant application, click on the link to the application. There, you will see the option to complete the application in Spanish. If you are viewing Digital Ready in Spanish, the application will default to Spanish.

How are selections made?

Visit our partner [LISC's site](#) to learn more about the selection process and view the full Terms & Conditions.

Other frequently asked questions

How can I verify if I've completed the eligibility requirements?

Once you have completed the required resource, the application will unlock on the Grant Promotion page and you will see the option to "Get Started". If you have completed one resource on Small Business Digital Ready during the eligibility period and the application has not unlocked, you can reach out to our support team at digitalready@verizon.com.

If I applied in a previous round, do I have to re-apply, or will my application roll over?

Applications do not roll over to later rounds. You must submit a new application for each grant cycle in order to be considered for funding. Each round has unique aspects and application eligibility requirements. If you meet the current round's eligibility requirements, you can apply again, even if you applied in a previous round.

Who has received the Digital Ready grant in the past?

Since 2021, we've awarded grants to approximately 1,450 unique small businesses. You can explore stories from some of our past grantees on our partner [LISC's site](#).

What should I do if the Digital Ready site isn't working when I'm trying to complete the grant requirements?

We're sorry you're running into difficulties. Here are a few troubleshooting tips we recommend trying to fix the issue:

- 1. Use the right setup:** We recommend accessing the site on a desktop or laptop and using Google Chrome for the best experience.
- 2. Restart your browser:** Close and reopen Google Chrome before logging back in.
- 3. Limit open tabs:** Too many tabs can slow things down or cause loading errors.
- 4. Clear your cache and cookies:** This often fixes performance issues.
- 5. Try Incognito mode:** Open an Incognito window in Chrome and login to Digital Ready.

If you continue to have trouble after trying these steps, please reach out to our [Support team](#).

How will I be contacted or know if I will receive a grant?

LISC will primarily utilize email to communicate with all applicants. You can expect to hear whether or not you have been selected for funding by the week of **May 17, 2026**. Twenty-five (25) New York-based grantees will be awarded \$5,000 grants.

Be sure to check your email regularly, including spam folders. Email updates to all applicants will come from the LISC Small Business Grants. Finalists will receive next steps from an “@lisc.org” email address domain. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the legitimacy of an email about your grant application status, please contact smallbusinessservices@lisc.org.

Finalists will be notified by email and must respond promptly. The return of any grantee notification message or document as undeliverable may result in disqualification of the applicable grantee, the forfeiture of his or her interest in the grant, and the selection of a substitute from among all remaining eligible finalists.

What does it mean to be a “finalist” and will there be additional documentation required?

If your business is selected as a finalist, you will be notified via email. Being selected as a finalist does not guarantee that you will receive a grant. As a finalist, additional documentation will be required to screen and verify business information. This may include a background search that LISC will conduct at our expense and submission of additional information including verification information such as date of birth, SSN, TIN/ITIN, EIN, W-9, and appropriate banking information in order to receive funds via ACH if awarded. The background verification does not involve a credit check or credit score pull. LISC will never request copies of personal documentation such as driver’s licenses, passports and/or green cards.

Does anything need to be repaid?

No, these grants do not need to be repaid. However, all taxes associated with the acceptance and/or uses of cash awarded are the sole responsibility of the individual grantee. LISC will issue a Form 1099 for these grants.