



Listening Learning Leading

## **Winter Support Grants Frequently Asked Questions Guide**

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**If your question is not covered by this list, please contact [business.support@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@southandvale.gov.uk).**

## 1. Who can apply for funding through the Winter Support Grants programme?

We are offering funding under two different schemes as follows. Please note: For the purpose of this grant, a business is defined as “*carrying on a trade or profession, or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover*”.

### **Start-up Grant**

***Applications are invited from:*** Businesses operating in any sector, where the business is based in South or Vale.

To be eligible to apply for the start-up grant, applicants must be able to evidence that their business started-up between **1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**.

Start-up applicants must be able to detail how their business intends to use the grant funds.

### **Sector Hardship Grant**

***Applications are invited from:*** Businesses operating in the following sectors:

Those operating:

- Breweries, Wineries, Distilleries
- Cinemas
- Concert Halls
- English Language Schools
- Nightclubs
- Theatres
- Wholesalers

### EVENTS SECTOR

- Event Caterer
- Event Hire
- Event Logistics
- Event Organiser
- Event Security
- Event Technical Services (including audiovisual, sound engineers etc)
- Event Technology
- Event Venues
- Exhibitions Supplier
- Wholesaler within industry
- Freelance Professional within sector

### TRAVEL AND TOURISM SECTOR

- Accommodation Provider / Operator
- Holiday Park

- Travel Agent
- Travel Consultant
- Tour Operator
- Tour Guide
- Ticketing Services
- Wholesaler within sector
- Freelance Professional within sector

## WEDDING SECTOR

- Bridal Shops
- Wedding Caterer
- Wedding Florist
- Wedding Hair and Beauty Services
- Wedding Hire Company (inc. marquee companies)
- Wedding Organiser
- Wedding Performer (including wedding bands, DJs etc)
- Wedding Technician (photographer, audio-visual etc)
- Freelance Professional within sector
- Wedding venue

Applications for the Sector Hardship Grant are invited from businesses operating primarily within the listed sectors that are continuing to experience trading challenges caused by the pandemic.

Applicants must be able to evidence that the majority of their revenue is derived from one of the business types above, and will be asked to provide details of the ongoing effect of the pandemic on their business.

### **2. Why is the funding limited to these categories?**

The Councils have limited ARG funds remaining available. The Councils have used their discretion to offer support to a limited number of sectors.

### **3. I do not qualify for either of these categories, is there any alternative funding available?**

At the current time, we are not aware of any alternative Government covid support grant funding available to businesses based in South and Vale. Should this situation change, we will publicise details of any relevant scheme via our newsletter. You can subscribe to our mailing list at [www.svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk).

### **4. I am a sole trader and not a resident of South or Vale, but I have a mobile business operating in the area, can I apply?**

To apply, sole traders must be a resident of the district, or operate from fixed commercial premises within the district (backed by appropriate evidence, such as a premises lease or business rates bill). Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications

from sole traders based outside of the districts that operate mobile businesses within South or Vale's boundaries.

#### **5. Can charities apply for funding?**

This grant fund is primarily aimed at businesses. For the purpose of these schemes, businesses are defined as carrying on a trade or profession, or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover.

If a charity has a trading arm engaged in buying and selling goods, or operates primarily within one of the sectors listed within the sector hardship grant, (i.e. a charity owned wedding venue) then we encourage an application for consideration

#### **6. Can town and parish councils apply for funding?**

This grant fund is primarily aimed at businesses. For the purpose of these schemes, businesses are defined as carrying on a trade or profession, or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover.

#### **7. What is meant by wedding / event venue?**

If requested, applicants selecting a wedding or an events venue as their business category must be able to evidence that the primary use of the facility is for weddings or specialised event hire (such as exhibitions or conferences).

#### **8. I am applying as a start-up but have accessed previous Local Authority Covid Grant support schemes, can I still apply?**

The start-up grant scheme is reserved for businesses that have not been able to access previous Covid grant support administered by Local Authorities. (Please note this excludes national covid support schemes such as those administered by the Arts Council, and those operated by independent organisations, including banks)

If your business operates within one of the sectors outlined for the Sector Hardship Grant, then you may consider applying for this grant stream instead.

#### **9. Why can't funding be used as salary support for the business owner, or employees?**

Government guidance for the Additional Restrictions Grant states "*ARG funding should not be used as a wage support mechanism*". Businesses are asked to declare that grants will not be used for this purpose at the declaration stage of the application form.

#### **10. Will any post-payment grant monitoring take place?**

Due diligence checks may be undertaken by both the awarding council, and Government departments, including BEIS and HMRC, following award of a grant.

As per the privacy statement for the scheme, We will share your information with Central Government for reporting on what grants the councils have paid. We will share your information to enable the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial

Strategy (BEIS) to undertake research and evaluation of the grant scheme. You may be contacted by BEIS for research purposes.

To check and validate grant applications, your information may be shared with organisations such as Spotlight, cabinet office and National Fraud Initiative and the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN).

**11. If my application is successful, will I need to repay the grant?**

Grants issued under this scheme are not required to be repaid, unless paid in error by the Council, or because of fraudulent activity.

**12. Are grant funds taxable?**

Grant income received by a business is taxable and will need to be included as income in the tax return of the business. Only businesses that make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

**13. Will I receive any updates on the progress of my application?**

Winter support grant applications are being assessed as a single lot once the scheme has closed.

Due to our limited resources in processing grants, we ask that businesses do not contact us specifically to seek an update on the progress of an application as we will not be able to service these types of requests.

Please be assured that all applicants will be informed of our funding decision as soon as possible, and all payments for the scheme will be completed before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**14. I have missed vital information from my application, can I edit or add information?**

We ask that applicants ensure all information is correct and fully provided before submission. Once you complete and submit the application form, you cannot amend, update, or otherwise edit your application. If your application does not contain the requested information or evidence, it may be rejected.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer the opportunity to apply for the scheme again, this is due to the timescales required for us to assess applications, and the deadline set by Government for full defrayal of funds under the scheme (funds must be defrayed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022).

Please note that as part of your application, you are asked to agree to the following condition: *“I understand that my application will be rejected if I do not provide the information requested on the application form in full, and that once my application has been submitted, I will no longer be able to edit or add information to my application.”*

**15. For the sector specific grant, what do you mean by hardship?**

The sector hardship grant seeks to support businesses facing ongoing challenges related to the pandemic. This may include but is not limited to debt incurred due to the pandemic, staffing, supply or logistics issues, increased costs, disruption to customer base, adaptations to premises.

**16. Who can apply as a wholesaler?**

Businesses in any industry who exist as a “merchant middleman”, i.e. a business that buys stock in bulk and sells mainly to retailers, merchants, or industrial, institutional, and commercial users mainly for resale or business use.

For this scheme, the wholesaler’s main cliental should not be the public.

**17. How much funding will successful applicants be awarded?**

The award will be based on our remaining funding divided by the number of successful applications received.

We’re unable to confirm how much funding applicants will be paid at this stage, but successful applicants will receive a share of available funding up to a maximum of £15,000 per applicant.

The amount of funding awarded will be confirmed within offer letters that will be sent by email in Jan / Feb 2022.