



Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Division of Taxation

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GRANT PROGRAMS

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Division issued \$45.4 million in grants to aid businesses amid pandemic

Grants to more than 3,000 entities that suffered losses due to COVID-19 restrictions

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Rhode Island Division of Taxation issued a total of \$45.4 million to more than 3,000 businesses under two grant programs that provided relief for certain businesses suffering losses due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions.

The first grant program was associated with business operating restrictions and was announced on November 5, 2020. It was aimed at certain bars and restaurants directly impacted by a State-mandated early closure. Grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Applications were due December 15, 2020. In total, the Division issued \$3.6 million in grants to 855 recipients under this program.

The second program was associated with business operating restrictions under the “Rhode Island on Pause” initiative and was announced on November 25, 2020. It was aimed at specified businesses directly impacted by the restrictions and the coronavirus pandemic. Grants ranged from \$750 to \$75,000. Applications were due December 14, 2020. In total, the Division issued \$41.8 million in grants to 2,203 recipients under this program.

Grant program totals

PROGRAM NAME	TOTAL DISBURSED	TOTAL CHECKS ISSUED
Early closure for restaurants and bars	\$3,603,058.66	855
Rhode Island on Pause*	\$41,822,862.25	2,203
Totals	\$45,425,920.91	3,058

*The temporary business operating restrictions under “Rhode Island on Pause” were extended by one week. Therefore, eligible businesses received two checks: one for the first two weeks of the Pause, and a second for the third week of the Pause. The second check was half the amount of the first check. If a business applied and received the first check, it automatically received the second check; no additional action was required. The dollar amount listed in the table for “Rhode Island on Pause” is the combined total of all the checks.

Lists posted on Division website

The grants were paid for through federal coronavirus relief funds. In posting the names and related information of grant recipients, the Division is following through on its pledge as outlined in the FAQs that explain each grant program. The grants are public funds, provided by taxpayers, and thus must be accounted for.

Each list includes information related to the grant recipients, including each recipient's grant amount.¹

Although there were officially two separate grant programs, the Division has posted three lists:²

- The first list, updated as of January 11, 2021, contains those grant recipients receiving grants through the first grant program, involving early closure for restaurants and bars, and is available through the following link: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/RIGrants/RIECP.php>.
- The second list, updated as of February 23, 2021, contains those grant recipients receiving grants through the "Rhode Island on Pause" grant program, involving temporary business operating restrictions for a number of business categories (not just bars and restaurants), and represents grants received for the first two weeks of the Pause. The list is available through the following link: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/RIGrants/RIonP2Wks.php>.
- The temporary business operating restrictions under "Rhode Island on Pause" were extended by one week. Eligible businesses received two checks: one for the first two weeks of the Pause, and a second for the third week of the Pause. Therefore, the Division posted a separate list of grant recipients for the third week of the Pause. That list, updated as of February 23, 2021, is available through the following link: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/RIGrants/RIonPWk3.php>.

Under the grant program rules, each entity on the list qualified for the grant program based on the information, acknowledgements, and attestations contained in the entity's application, and in accordance with the grant program rules.

The Division posted answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) outlining the rules for each grant program. If an entity applied for a grant but did not qualify under the rules, that entity has been contacted by the Division.

Amounts disbursed to recipients under the grant programs are taxable income to the recipients.

For more details about the grant programs, please use the following link:
<http://www.tax.ri.gov/RIGrants/index.php>.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation office is open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. To learn more, see the agency's website: www.tax.ri.gov, or call (401) 574-8829.

¹ Although these are grants, the amount of each grant is shown as the "Refund amount" on each list.

² The information contained on the three lists is as much information as the Division can provide; additional information about each grant recipient is considered confidential taxpayer information.