

Venture Portland 2014 Supplemental Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I apply for a Supplemental Grant if my district received a Spring/Summer Benchmark or MLS All Star Game grant?

A: Yes. Any eligible business district may apply for this grant regardless of prior Spring/Summer funding.

Q: What do Venture Portland's funds cover?

A: Venture Portland has secured expert panelists who have agreed to participate at a very reduced cost; grant awards cover the cost of the experts. Business district matching funds (cash or in-kind) will cover event and follow-up costs (venue, refreshments, materials, advertising, membership solicitation, etc).

Q: What if my business district wants the panel to address specific issues?

A: Applicants may identify up to 3 issues that their business district is currently facing for the panel to address. District-specific topics may include chronic vacancies, lease rates, development/construction, diversity/demographics, business mix/business recruitment, equity, etc.

Q: What if my business district wants to use different panelists?

A: Venture Portland has secured expert panelists who have agreed to participate at a very reduced cost. Business districts may work with Venture Portland to include an additional speaker if necessary to address a unique district-specific issue.

Q: If my Business District has a project that is currently under a variance, can I still apply for the Supplemental Grant?

A: Yes. As long as your business district is currently in compliance you are eligible to apply for a Supplemental Grant. However, if the project is not completed and/or if Venture Portland is not informed of changes, delays or issues in a timely fashion, Venture Portland has the right to request the return of grant funds and the business district's future grant eligibility will be impacted.

Q: Is it mandatory that I attend Grants Office Hours in order to apply for the Supplemental Grant?

A: No. However, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of Grants Office Hours, especially Final Draft Review (5/6-5/8/14, 9:30am-5pm), so that we may help you assess your business district's readiness, provide support and assistance during the early stages of your grant application and identify any issues with your final draft. Keep in mind, incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Q: Why did Venture Portland create a one-time-only Supplemental Grant?

A: Venture Portland is committed to helping business districts strengthen the economic competitiveness of their commercial corridor by providing in-depth information on community demographics, market strength, lease rates, business and economic trends, store-front activation and district evolution. Venture Portland is distributing one-time funds to help business districts host a public forum featuring some of Portland's top public and private business district experts. This forum will provide beneficial information for businesses, property owners and residents. Venture Portland created this grant, utilizing one-time-only funds, to help neighborhood businesses and business districts better understand the economic reality of their community. If business districts do not apply for this grant, the funds will be rolled into future Benchmark grants.