
Introducing the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Community Grant: Houston

Here's all you need to know

The Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Community Grant is part of Verizon's commitment to give small businesses the tools and resources they need to thrive in today's digital economy and ultimately benefit their local communities.

In addition to the free courses, coaching sessions, and mentoring offered through the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready program, throughout 2024, Verizon, in partnership with LISC will award over \$1.25 million in grant funding to small businesses to further our commitment. We are excited to announce that the first round of grant funding in 2024 is launching in the Houston, Texas metropolitan area.

Frequently asked questions

Is my business eligible to apply for the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready Community Grant: Houston?

To be eligible for this grant application, you must have an account on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready and your business must be located in the Houston metropolitan area (as determined by [zip codes](#)).

To unlock this grant application, you must have an account on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready and complete any combination of two courses, coaching events, and virtual community events **between January 1st, 2024, and April 8th, 2024**, and submit a grant application by **April 8th, 2024**. For example, you can unlock the application by completing one course and one coaching event, or one course and one virtual community event, or two courses, or two events.

Once these requirements have been completed, you will have access to the "LISC Community Grant Application" tile on the Incentive tab of the Digital Ready platform. Once unlocked, click "learn more" on the LISC Community Grant Application tile to go directly to the application.

Engagements through the Personalized Mentoring resource and in-person events are not included towards grant eligibility. Awards will be made to a selection of qualified businesses who apply (not all applicants). Eligibility is based on accurate and complete submission, and priority will be given to businesses located in and/or serving historically under-served communities with limited access to flexible, affordable capital. Non-profit organizations are ineligible for this grant. Applicants may apply for one business only and must be 18 years of age to apply.

Small business owners who have applied for previous rounds of Small Business Digital Ready grants may apply again for the current round. A new application must be submitted for each round, and eligibility criteria for the current round must be met.

When is the latest grant application open?

Grant applications open on **February 21st 2024**, and close at **11:59 pm PT on April 8th, 2024**. All applicants will be notified about whether or not they have been selected as a grant finalist by **May 3rd, 2024**.

What if my home address is located in an eligible zip code, but my business is not?

Eligibility is based on the above requirements and your business's zip code. If your business is operated from your home, then you are eligible to apply if your home is located in one of the eligible zip codes. [Click here](#) to see the list of eligible zip codes.

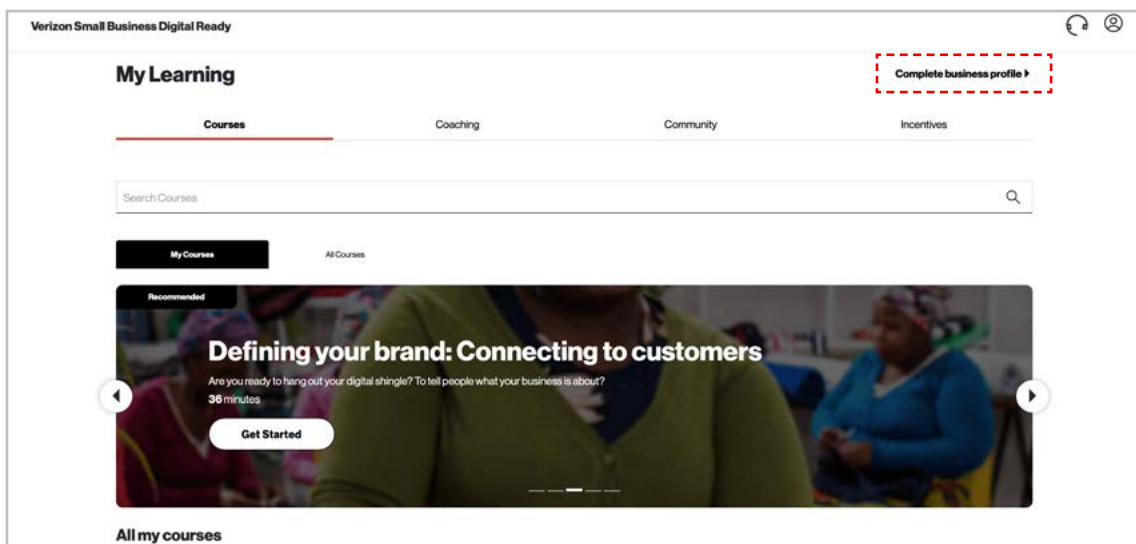
Is the application available in Spanish?

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.

Other frequently asked questions

I don't see the grant application in the Incentives tab and my business is located in Houston, Texas. What should I do?

Please [click here](#) to see a list of all eligible zip codes to ensure your business is located in an eligible geography. If your zip code is eligible please ensure your zip code is accurately entered in your Small Business Digital Ready account by clicking on the "Complete Business Profile" button in the upper right-hand corner of the Digital Ready dashboard. Once you are on the "My Account," page, click on the "Business Profile" tab. Scroll down the page, and under the "Business Address" field, you can add or edit your zip code. Once you have added or edited your zip code, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the "Save" button. During the application review process, zip codes will be verified against official business documentation.



Verizon Small Business Digital Ready

My Account

Profile Business

Business Information

Business Name

Business Address

Street Address

Apt, Suite, Unit, Building

City

State

Zip Code

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

Once you have completed the required combination of courses, coaching events, and/or virtual community events, if your business is recorded as being located in an eligible zip code, the grant application will unlock in the Incentives tab. If you have completed two resources on Small Business Digital Ready between January 1st, 2024 and April 8th, 2024 and the application has not unlocked, you can verify your progress by emailing our support team at digitalready@verizon.com.

Can I change my application after it has been submitted?

No. Once an application is submitted it is final. Review your answers carefully before you submit your application. Please note, your responses may not be saved if you leave the application page before submitting. You may also lose your work if your internet is disconnected or as a result of other potential web browser issues. LISC cannot accept changes to the application once it has been submitted, so please review it carefully. We recommend using the Google Chrome browser for the application process.

Will I receive confirmation after I submit my application?

Every applicant receives a confirmation screen after hitting "done," as well as a follow-up email confirmation, as long as they have filled out all fields correctly. Following these confirmations, the next communication you will receive will be by May 3rd, 2024 to inform you if you have been selected as a finalist.

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 I applied in a previous round, am I eligible to apply again and be considered for this round?

Yes, if you meet eligibility requirements for the current round, you may submit a new application for this round, which will be considered.

When filling out the application, I'm seeing the error message "3.1. You're creating a duplicate record. It is recommended you use an existing record instead." What should I do?

Applicants may apply for only one business and submit only one application per round. If you've applied in previous rounds, please submit a new application with the exact same First Name, Last Name and Email Address as you did previously.

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 May 3rd, 2024.

Be sure to check email regularly, including spam folders. Email updates to all applicants will come from the LISC Small Business Grants. Finalists will receive next steps from notifications@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.

List of eligible zip codes

Houston-based businesses

Here is a complete list of the eligible zip codes in the Houston, Texas metropolitan area. To quickly find your zip code, hold “CTRL + F” on Windows and “command + F” on Mac. Type in your zip code and press “enter.” It will highlight if your zip code is found on the document.

77001, 77002, 77003, 77004, 77005, 77006, 77007, 77008, 77009, 77010, 77011, 77012, 77013, 77014, 77015, 77016, 77017, 77018, 77019, 77020, 77021, 77022, 77023, 77024, 77025, 77026, 77027, 77028, 77029, 77030, 77031, 77032, 77033, 77034, 77035, 77036, 77037, 77038, 77039, 77040, 77041, 77042, 77043, 77044, 77045, 77046, 77047, 77048, 77049, 77050, 77051, 77052, 77053, 77054, 77055, 77056, 77057, 77058, 77059, 77060, 77061, 77062, 77063, 77064, 77065, 77066, 77067, 77068, 77069, 77070, 77071, 77072, 77073, 77074, 77075, 77076, 77077, 77078, 77079, 77080, 77081, 77082, 77083, 77084, 77085, 77086, 77087, 77088, 77089, 77090, 77091, 77092, 77093, 77094, 77095, 77096, 77098, 77099, 77201, 77202, 77203, 77204, 77205, 77206, 77207, 77208, 77209, 77210, 77212, 77213, 77215, 77216, 77217, 77218, 77219, 77220, 77221, 77222, 77223, 77224, 77225, 77226, 77227, 77228, 77229, 77230, 77231, 77233, 77234, 77235, 77236, 77237, 77238, 77240, 77241, 77242, 77243, 77244, 77245, 77248, 77249, 77251, 77252, 77253, 77254, 77255, 77256, 77257, 77258, 77259, 77261, 77262, 77263, 77265, 77266, 77267, 77268, 77269, 77270, 77271, 77272, 77273, 77274, 77275, 77277, 77279, 77280, 77282, 77284, 77287, 77288, 77289, 77290, 77291, 77292, 77293, 77297, 77299, 77301, 77302, 77303, 77304, 77305, 77306, 77315, 77316, 77318, 77325, 77327, 77328, 77333, 77336, 77337, 77338, 77339, 77345, 77346, 77347, 77353, 77354, 77355, 77356, 77357, 77362, 77365, 77368, 77369, 77372, 77373, 77375, 77377, 77378, 77379, 77380, 77381, 77382, 77383, 77384, 77385, 77386, 77387, 77388, 77389, 77391, 77393, 77396, 77401, 77402, 77406, 77407, 77410, 77411, 77413, 77417, 77423, 77429, 77433, 77441, 77444, 77445, 77446, 77447, 77449, 77450, 77451, 77459, 77461, 77464, 77466, 77469, 77471, 77476, 77477, 77478, 77479, 77481, 77484, 77487, 77489, 77491, 77492, 77493, 77494, 77496, 77497, 77498, 77501, 77502, 77503, 77504, 77505, 77506, 77507, 77508, 77514, 77520, 77521, 77522, 77523, 77530, 77532, 77533, 77535, 77536, 77538, 77545, 77547, 77560, 77561, 77562, 77564, 77571, 77572, 77575, 77580, 77582, 77586, 77587, 77597, 77598, 77661, 77665, 77512, 77516, 77542, 77549, 77552, 77553, 77574, 77588, 77592, 77617, 77650, 77510, 77511, 77515, 77517, 77518, 77531, 77539, 77541, 77546, 77554, 77563, 77565, 77566, 77568, 77573, 77578, 77581, 77583, 77584, 77590, 77591