

Distribution of Grant Funding

Throughout 2021, Council directed Administration to develop relief options to support local businesses. Relief options included:

- waiving up to \$17.6 million in business licence fees between March 17, 2021 – March 16, 2023.
- tax deferral for hotel/motel non-residential property owners,
- Calgary Reopening Grant for Restaurants, Pubs and Bars,
- Calgary Reopening Grant for Fitness Facilities,
- Calgary Reopening Grant for Entertainment Establishments
- Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program.

The Reopening Grants that were established and operated as follows:

- Restaurants, pubs, bars could receive a grant of \$2,500 per physical permanent premise up to a maximum of three locations. A maximum of \$9.5 million in funds were made available to this group. (RELIEF-RES)
- Fitness centres (including fitness studios) could receive a grant of up to \$7,500 per physical permanent premise up to a maximum of three locations and a maximum of \$3 million was made available to this category. (RELIEF-FIT)
- Entertainment establishments (night clubs and music venues only) that were fully closed since the beginning of the pandemic were eligible to receive a grant of \$15,000 per physical permanent premises up to a maximum of three locations. \$500,000 was available for businesses in this category. (RELIEF-ENT)

The program accepted applications between July 2 – August 10, 2021.

In September 2021, the three Reopening Grant programs were merged into The Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program. This program was used to fund the Restrictions Exemption Program Business Support Grant (RELIEF-REP). The REP Business Grant provided grants of \$2,500 to those businesses who were obligated to follow the Restrictions Exemption Program as per City of Calgary Bylaw 65M2021.

As of July 12, 2022, the distribution to businesses through all of these grant programs was as follows:

		Funding Allocation		Reallocation	Balance
		YTD Spent	C2021-0725	PFC2021-1366	
2021	RELIEF-ENT Total	437,500.00	500,000.00	(62,500.00)	-
2021	RELIEF-FIT Total	2,145,000.00	3,000,000.00	(855,000.00)	-
2021	RELIEF-RES Total	5,467,500.00	9,500,000.00	(4,032,500.00)	-
		8,050,000.00	13,000,000.00	(4,950,000.00)	-
2021	RELIEF-REP Total	4,594,000.00		4,950,000.00	356,000.00
		12,644,000.00	13,000,000.00	-	356,000.00
		Funding carried forward to 2022		(356,000.00)	(356,000.00)
2022	RELIEF-REP Total	72,000.00		356,000.00	284,000.00
2022	RELIEF-RES Total	(5,000.00)		-	5,000.00
		12,711,000.00	13,000,000.00	-	289,000.00

Since July 2022, no further distributions have been made from RELIEF-REP and given that it has been one-year since COVID-19 restrictions on businesses were lifted, it is unlikely that there will be further distributions that will qualify under the current direction. As such, it is appropriate to close the Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program.