



Small Business Sponsorship Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the Small Business Sponsorship, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Business Status

- Must be a legally registered business (LLC, Corporation, Sole Proprietor, or Partnership)
- Business must be currently operating at the time of application
- Must be in good standing with state and local regulatory agencies

2. Business Size

- Must qualify as a small business, defined as:
 - Fewer than **1-50 full-time equivalent employees**
 - Annual gross revenue less than **\$50,00-\$100,000**

3. Location

- Business must be physically located in or primarily operating within **Sarasota/Manatee County**
- Home-based businesses are eligible if legally permitted

4. Time In Operation

- Must have been in operation for a minimum of **1 year**
- **Startups may be eligible if specifically noted**

5. Industry Eligibility

- Open to most industries, excluding:
 - Gambling, adult entertainment, or illegal activities
 - Passive real estate holding companies
 - Nonprofits (unless otherwise stated)
(Adjust exclusions as needed)

6. Financial Standing

- Must demonstrate a **financial need** or clear use of funds
- Business must not be in active bankruptcy or subject to unresolved liens or judgments
- Must be current on all federal, state, and local taxes (or have an approved payment plan)



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7. Use of Sponsorship

- Membership with The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.
 - Connects you to a vibrant network of businesses and professionals across Sarasota County. As a member, you can enjoy a variety of benefits, including:
 - Discounted Rates: Access exclusive savings on GSCC events, workshops, and programs throughout the year.
 - Networking Opportunities: Build valuable connections with other local businesses at Chamber events and through online platforms.
 - Enhanced Visibility: Utilize our press release distribution tool and other resources to gain exposure for your company.
 - Member Directory Listing: Gain increased visibility for your business online.
 - Additional Resources: Access valuable business tools and resources, including legislative updates, economic development insights, and more!

8. Compliance & Reporting

- Applicant must agree to:
 - Provide documentation verifying eligibility
 - Participate in follow-up reporting or impact surveys
 - Acknowledge the grant program in public materials if requested

9. Application Requirements

- Applicants must submit:
 - Completed application form
 - Proof of business registration
 - Most recent tax return or financial statements
 - Acknowledgement in participating in 3-5 events with the GSCC





Small Business Grant Eligibility Checklist

- Business is legally registered** (LLC, Corporation, Sole Proprietor, or Partnership)
- Business is currently operating** and in good standing
- Meets small business size requirements**
 - Fewer than 1-50 full-time equivalent employees
 - Annual gross revenue less than \$50,00-\$100,000
- Business is located in / primarily operates within Sarasota/Manatee County**
- Business has been operating for at least 1 year**
- Business operates in an eligible industry**
 - Not engaged in prohibited activities (e.g., illegal, gambling, adult entertainment)
- Business demonstrates financial need or growth opportunity**
- Business is current on all federal, state, and local taxes**
- Business is not in active bankruptcy**
- Sponsorship will be used to join the GSCC**
- Grant funds will NOT be used for prohibited purposes**
 - Personal expenses
 - Debt repayment (unless approved)
 - Political or lobbying activities
- Applicant agrees to provide required documentation, including:**
 - Proof of business registration
 - Most recent tax return or financial statements
 - Brief statement describing intended use of funds
- Applicant agrees to grant terms and reporting requirements**