

Thank you for sharing your views with us. Since the programme was announced, the Foundation has received over a thousand enquiries. We have answered some of the more frequently asked questions below:

FAQ

1. How are “businesses with fewer than 50 employees” defined under the Crunch Time Instant Relief Fund programme?

The Crunch Time Instant Relief Fund was created to specifically help local SMEs, i.e. limited or unlimited companies, sole proprietorships or partnerships, which have substantive F&B business operations in Hong Kong and employ a total of fewer than 50 persons in Hong Kong (employees include proprietors, partners, shareholders who are actively involved in the operation of the business, and all salaried employees at the time of application. Such employees must receive a salary directly from the applicant, whether their employment status is permanent or temporary, full-time or part-time.)

2. Are the grants available on a first-come, first-served basis?

No, they are not. We will review all applications once the submission period has ended.

3. Is there a requirement for the period of business operation?

The applicant should have been issued one of the qualified Food Business Licences (General Restaurant/Light Refreshment Restaurant/Siu Mei or Lo Mei Shop) before 1 May 2019 which is still valid and held at the time of application, and must have a valid Business Registration at the time of application.

4. How many applications can each individual/ business submit? If multiple applications are submitted, will they all receive aid? Are Franchise, Regular and Voluntary Chains eligible to apply?

Each business registration number, irrespective of the number of branch(es)/shop(s) (including franchised shops) it covers, can only be used as the supporting document for one application. If the applicant owns more than one restaurant, restaurant branch or has shops using the same name, such applicant can only submit one application form and in respect of one shop only.

5. Are social enterprises eligible to apply?

Yes, so long as they qualify as SMEs and hold the relevant licences and registrations.

6. If the licence has been renewed, do I have to submit both the original and the renewed licences?

If the licence was renewed after 1 May 2019, you may submit only the renewed licence.

7. When I fill out the application form, can I save the application form and submit it on a later date?

Sorry, the application form cannot be saved. You must complete the application form and submit it in one go.

8. How can I confirm that the application was received?

After the Foundation has received the application, an email and/or SMS confirmation will be sent to you.

9. Once the application has been submitted, can I make changes or submit further information, or even withdraw it?

Once the application has been submitted, you cannot make any changes, submit further information (unless requested by the Foundation) or cancel the application.

10. Are there any grant tiers?

Each successful applicant in the first phase for the F&B industry will receive a fixed amount of HK\$60,000.

11. Does the grant need to be repaid?

No. It is a gift by the Foundation to help the F&B industry as an encouragement.

12. Are there any limits on the use of the grants?

The aim of the Crunch Time Instant Relief Fund is to help SMEs in their time of need. Successful applicants should use the grants to support their business operation.

13. What are the eligibility criteria? Who will decide which applications will receive the grants?

The grants are open to all applicants who can fulfill the eligibility criteria. However, if the number of eligible applicants exceeds the quota of the first phase of the Crunch Time Instant Relief Fund, the Foundation will select successful applicants by a random draw.

14. How will the applicants be notified about the application results?

We will notify successful applicants by email and/or SMS. If the applicant does not receive any notification by 26 November 2019, the application shall be deemed unsuccessful.

15. When will the grant be awarded if the application is successful?

Once we have concluded the screening and verification process, successful applicants in the first phase for the F&B industry may receive the grants by 26 November at the earliest. Successful applicants will each receive a cashier's order (made out to Food Business Licence Holder), couriered or posted to the address stated on Food Business Licence.

16. What happens to the personal data collected by the Foundation when the programme is concluded?

The Foundation expects all auditing and compliance work to be completed by May 2020, at which time we will delete all personal information collected under this programme.