Help where it is needed most

Washington’s small businesses took a devastating hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Working Washington Grants gets funding into the hands of businesses and nonprofits so they can return to what they do best—creating jobs, enriching communities, and making Washington one of the world’s best places to call home.

Smart investment through targeted funding

$70 million was appropriated by the legislature for the next round of Working Washington Grants: Round 5. In this round of grants, portions of the available funds are set aside for specific targeted groups or sectors:

- **60% is identified for the arts, heritage, and science sectors**, including those that operate live entertainment venues
- **40% is identified for most other sectors**, including hospitality, fitness, and personal services

Powering Washington's creative economy

Arts, heritage, and science are key to the creative economy. The creative economy is a critical engine of Washington’s workforce, contributing $53.2 billion to the state in 2019 and representing 1 of every 12 dollars in state revenue.† But by July 2020, the pandemic’s devastation had erased $5.2 billion in revenue from the most vulnerable parts of the creative sector.‡ Washington needs a thriving creative sector. From podcasters to software developers, craft breweries to children’s museums, these jobs and spaces form the fabric of our daily lives and drive our state economy.

Who is eligible for Working Washington Grants: Round 5?

Eligible businesses need to have earned at least $10,000 in revenue in 2019 or 2020 and no more than $5,000,000 in 2019. They will need to demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The full list of eligibility requirements are online at commercegrants.com.

† Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2019)
‡ Source: Lost art: Measuring COVID-19’s devastating impact on America’s creative economy (2020)