

Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER Rural Food and Drink Business Adaptation Grant Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I find out if my business is eligible?

A. This scheme is only available to food and drink businesses so you must derive at least 70% of your turnover from food and drink activity. Your business also needs to be located in an eligible area. You can check this at www.fvl.org.uk to see the list of eligible areas. If you're still not sure email mcgillc@stirling.gov.uk

Q. My business has more than one premises, can I apply for more than one grant?

A. *For this first round it will be one grant per business. Depending on demand we may consider further grants for businesses with multiple premises.*

Q. *What types of work can I spend the grant on?*

A. *There are four types of work the project can be spent on*

- premises adaptation*
- purchase or hire of equipment*
- e-commerce/ website development*
- Covid related training for staff*

Please note the grant will **not fund the purchase of outdoor gas heaters due to the negative environmental impact of the equipment, including high CO2 emissions and high energy use.*

Q. I'm interested in developing the e-commerce side of my business, but I don't where to begin. Can anyone advise me?

A. *We have partnered up with Business Gateway who have an e-commerce specialist who can give you an hour's impartial and helpful advice on what you could apply for. Let us know if you would like to take up this offer of advice.*

A good starting point before speaking to Colin is to think about what you are already doing, what online presence you already have, what you have access to, and what you would like to achieve.

Q. Do I need to secure three quotes for the grant?

A. *The grants are publicly funded so there is a need to ensure best Value for Money which is achieved by obtaining three comparable quotes. It is also good practice to find out what different companies can offer – the prices for some activities can change from one week to the next, and whilst there can be advantages to using the contractor you have always used, often a different contractor can offer you a better deal. If there is a specific reason why you cannot secure three quotes, please discuss this with us before submitting your application mcgillc@stirling.gov.uk*

Q. Will you pay me all of the grant upfront?

A. No, we will pay 50% on issuing the formal grant offer. Then 25% on completion of the works, and the final 25% on evidence of acknowledgement of funding/signage as appropriate.

Q. Will I need to get planning permission or a building warrant?

A. This will depend on the detail of what you propose to do. We encourage you to make contact with planning, building control or licensing officials at the earliest opportunity – and before you submit your application for the grant as this will delay the final decision on your grant being made.

Q. Will any changes I make to my premises or business affect my existing alcohol license?

A Contact your local Council's licensing team for any proposed changes in relation to alcohol sales or supply liquorlicensing@stirling.gov.uk

Q. When do I have to complete my project by?

A. All works and funding drawn down by October 2021.

Q. Does the grant include any VAT paid?

A. This depends on whether you are VAT registered or not. If you are VAT registered, then the grant paid will be net of VAT. If you are not VAT registered, then the grant will include VAT.

Q. Can I claim for alterations I have already made?

A. No.

Q. I'm not eligible, where else can I look for support?

A. In Stirling: <https://www.goforthstirling.co.uk/covid19>
<https://www.bgateway.com/local-offices/stirling/local-support>
<https://stepscotland.co.uk/>

In West Dunbartonshire: <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/business/grant-and-loan/town-centre-adaption/>
<https://www.bgateway.com/local-offices/west-dunbartonshire/local-support>

In Clackmannanshire: <http://alloafirst.co.uk/>
<http://www.clacksfirst.co.uk/>
<https://www.ceteris.co.uk/business-gateway-clackmannanshire/>