

Take It Outside Guidelines

UPDATED FEBRUARY 15, 2023

RIHA will be reimbursing hospitality businesses up to \$10,000 in expenses used to expand outdoor programming. Reimbursements will be offered on a **first come, first served basis and RIHA cannot guarantee approval until Commerce verifies an applicant's application.**

Note: If you received Take it Outside funds in 2020 or 2021, this will not impact your funding in 2022. If you already applied for Take It Outside monies but were reimbursed for less than \$10,000, you can apply again up to that threshold.

What items will be eligible for reimbursement?

RIHA has received authorization from Commerce to approve applications for the following items.

- Barriers
- Bike racks
- Chairs
- Coolers, refrigerators, freezer (must exclusively be used to support outdoor operations)
- Covers/roofs for outdoor patios for expanding outdoor capacity, and not fully enclosing an outdoor space
- Fire Pit (propane or other fuel serviced by public utility cannot be reimbursed)
- Generators to service outdoor space
- Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer
- Heat lamps
- Igloos
- Insurance costs related to specific outdoor activities
- Labor for services (example: paying contractor to install tent)
- Lighting
- Lumber/Labor for building outdoor decks, patios, similar structures
- Masks
- Outdoor furniture ONLY used to expand outdoor capacity, including bar carts and serving stations
- Outdoor games such as bocce ball, corn hole
- Outdoor Wi-Fi systems
- Outdoor planters

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- Plastic to cover menus (only for menus used outside)
- Portable outdoor staging (as long as the stage is for outdoor use only)
- Power Sources
- Relevant signage
- Security
- Tables
- Tents
- Trash bins and Garbage bags (must be used exclusively for outdoors)
- TV installation at outside bar
- Umbrellas

If an item is not listed, a business may still be able to apply, but it will require additional authorization from Commerce RI. Please email cindy@rihospitality.org.

What items are not eligible for reimbursement?

RIHA has received several questions on items that Commerce RI has determined are not eligible for reimbursement after RIHA sent in industry requests. This list is not exhaustive and will continue to be added to as we get more information.

- Propane/fuel for outdoor heaters
- Flowers and plants
- Walk-In Coolers
- Plastic cups for outdoor dining
- Normal business expenses such as plates, takeout containers, cups
- Permit Fees
- Table technology (such as iPads/tablets)
- Paying existing staff
- Outdoor commercial door

Who is eligible to receive funding?

Applicants who meet the following guidelines are eligible for Take it Outside funding. **These requirements were determined by the federal and state government and RIHA does not have the authority to change them.**

1. Applicant had less than \$1 million in gross annual revenue in 2020 or 2021.
2. Applicant has not received more than \$10,000 under the current Take it Outside initiative. **If you received Take it Outside funding in 2020 or 2021, this does not count towards this limit.**

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3. Applicant has not received more than \$20,000 under the current Take it Outside initiative, the Small Business Grant program, and the Technical Assistance Program.
4. Applicant has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Applicant has not been reimbursement from the federal or state program for the requested items previously.

How much money will I be able to get through this program?

Applicants can get up to \$10,000 in reimbursements or items. RIHA will only be offering reimbursements on purchased items.

You can get reimbursements or items from multiple sources as long as the total amount does not exceed \$10,000 and you have not received any compensation for the same products from any other source. Commerce RI will be verifying how much each business received.

Do I need to purchase the items before I apply for reimbursement?

Yes. RIHA can only accept applications for items that have already been purchased. All applicants will be required to submit a dated, itemized receipt for purchase items with their application. **Estimates, invoices that don't show payment, and quotes will not be accepted.**

Are items that I purchase now available for reimbursement?

Items purchased on or after April 22, 2022 will be eligible for reimbursement.

How soon will I get the money?

Due to the complex federal guidelines on this program, the estimated time it will take us to process the applications, verify the information, and prepare the funding will be approximately 4-5 weeks.

We understand that this time frame is quite long - here is an explanation of the process.

- Applicant applies for reimbursement through an online application.
- RIHA verifies the business information and item eligibility (*approximately 3-5 business days if the application is submitted correctly with all information*).
- RIHA will also be required to verify with Commerce that the applicant has

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not received more than \$10,000 in Take it Outside funding from other sources (*approximately 1 week depending on how quickly we are able to obtain the verification information from Commerce*).

- RIHA will submit application to Commerce to receive program funding (*Commerce has stated it will take about 15 days to process these invoices*).
- Once RIHA has received the funding through Commerce, RIHA will issue payment to the applicant (*approximately 7-10 business days*).