

State Program Offering Grants to Businesses That Started After July 2019

The Dream Fund is a one-time \$35 million grant program to seed entrepreneurship and small business creation for businesses started in the State of California on or after July 1, 2019. The grant is available to qualifying businesses that meet all eligibility criteria and complete the small business training program provided by the Northern California Small Business Development Center.

Following successful completion of the program, businesses will be eligible to apply for a microgrant of up to \$10,000.

Eligible business owners sign up [here](#). You will then be enrolled in a five-week training program. Eligible businesses will have at least one counseling session with a Norcal SBDC Advisor during that time.

Following satisfactory completion of training and counseling, eligible businesses will be referred to the grantmaking entity, Lendistry, to proceed with granting of up to \$10,000.

In order to be eligible:

- Must be formally registered to do business in one of the northern 36 counties of California.
- Businesses can start the program without being registered but must be able to show proof of registration prior to being referred for a grant.
- Business registration must have occurred on or after July 1st, 2019.
- Entities must also demonstrate they are ‘in business’ by having completed one of the following:
 - Has made the first sale, or
 - Has hired at least one employee, or
 - Has created a business banking relationship, or
 - Has spent money on business expenses (this includes legal and accounting fees).
- Must be a business with 5 employees or less and \$1 million or less in annual receipts.
- Must agree to all applicable terms and conditions.
- Must not be a current or former (within the last 18 months) staff or immediate family of a Northern California SBDC Network staff or consultant.

- Must not have received a grant from the California Dream Fund previously, either from the Norcal SBDC or another participating program – only one grant per entity is allowed.

Important Note:

Grants are subject to fund availability, and while there is a discrete amount set aside for Northern California entrepreneurs, the funds are finite and may be allocated before everyone that enrolls completes the required steps. Enrollment does not guarantee access to funds.

You can find more information [here](#).