

**2021 MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITIES IN L.A. COUNTY
DURING AND IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (COVID)
Award Application**

INSTRUCTIONS:

To apply for the 2021 Most Business-Friendly Cities (MBFC) in L.A. County during and in response to COVID-19 Award, complete the application below and provide responses to each question by clicking or tapping into the text boxes to enter your text. The application deadline, with attachments, is due **Monday, August 16, 2021 @ 11:59 pm**. Submit your application, all attachments and any questions regarding the application to MBFC@laedc.org.

Please be sure to answer all questions and provide descriptions to receive maximum available number of points.

SECTION 1: City Information – 200 points

1. City Name:

2. City Hall:

Address:

City:

Zip Code:

3. Population:

4. City Unemployment Rate:

2018:

2019:

2020:

5. Mayor:

Name:

Phone #:

Email:

6. City Manager:

Name:

Phone #:

Email:



7. Economic Development Manager/Community Development Manager:
Name:
Phone #:
Email:
8. City General Fund Budget and Reserves Past Three Years (Amount and Percentage):
2018:
2019:
2020:
9. Please describe the annual budget and number of dedicated full-time employees in your Economic Development Department.
Number of F/T Economic Development Department Staff:

Names of Economic Development Staff:

Economic Development Department Annual Budget:
10. Total number of business establishments. Numerical answers only.
Pre-COVID:
Current:
11. Business Licenses (enter number of days from application receipt to issuance). Example: 3 months entered as 90 days.
New:
Renewal:
 Do not require
12. Does your city offer a provisional business license?
 Yes
 No
 Do not require

If yes, please enter the number of days from application receipt to issuance.

If yes, please explain how the process may have changed in response to COVID-19. .



13. Are business licenses available online?

- Yes
- No
- Do not require

If yes, please explain how the process may have changed in response to COVID-19.

14. Building Permits (enter number of days it takes for the city to review and approve building permits).

Minor (Costs under \$500,000):

Major (Costs over \$500,000):

Please explain if there were any modifications in response to COVID-19.

SECTION 2: COVID Incentives, Grants and Special Programs – 700 points

15. Describe any changes to your tax rates in response to COVID. If not applicable, enter 0.

User Utility Tax:

Transient Occupancy Tax:

Sales Tax:

Property Tax:

Transfer Tax:

Other:

16. Describe any changes to your fees in response to COVID. If not applicable, enter 0.

Exaction/Impact Fees:

Bridge & Thoroughfare:

Signalization:

Public Art:

Open Space:

Traffic/Transportation:

Public Facilities/Drainage:

Broadband Projects:

17. Changes to Business Tax Rates in response to COVID – Describe any changes to your business tax rates in response to COVID. If not applicable, please enter 0.

Gross Receipts:

Employee:

Other:

18. Provide additional detail on Questions 16, 17 and 18 below and reference number you are supplementing. (250 words maximum).

19. What is the total amount of federal and state resources you received related to COVID?
How much of it went directly to small businesses?

Federal Funding Received:

% To Small Businesses:

State Funding Received:

% to Small Businesses:

20. Select all that apply and describe your City's COVID-resources, grants, special programs, and technical assistance your city is providing to businesses, small businesses, micro-enterprises, and non-profits. Each description is limited to a 250-word maximum.

Industrial Development Bonds/ Tax Allocation Bonds/ Community Facility Bonds
(Provide list for last 3 years and describe one completed transaction.):

Foreign Trade Zone (Provide FTZ Number):

Recycling Market Development Zone(s) (Provide jurisdiction name of RMDZ Grantee.):

Business Improvement District(s) (Provide list.):

Sales Tax Sharing Agreements:

Lease/Tenant Subsidies/ Negotiation Assistance (Provide program fact sheet or URL):

Facade Improvement Program (Provide program fact sheet or URL.):

Business License Fee Reduction/Waiver/Fee Abatements (Provide program fact sheet or URL.):

Business Loans or Other Types of Financing - i.e., EB-5, Commercial Revolving Loan, HUD Section 108, etc.:



- Film Friendly Ordinance – i.e., rapid film permit issuance, standard filming hours, film cost recovery fees for the reimbursement of city or county personnel, appoint a film liaison, centralized filming section on website (Provide program fact sheet or URL.):
- Small Business and Micro-Enterprise Targeted Programs:
- Regular Business Outreach and Technical Assistance (business retention, visitation):
- Business Workshops/Education:
- Site Selection Assistance – i.e., number of sites searches conducted in the past fiscal year and a success story:
- Partnerships developed to deliver resources and services:

21. City's effective communication with businesses. Select all that apply and describe:

- Dedicated Business Section on City Website - provide URL link with your description:
- Business newsletter/social media/economic snapshot. Provide URL links with your description:
- Business Resource Guide. Provide URL links with your description:
- Communication in multiple languages:
- Innovative tech/media programs:
- Does your city have a recovery plan for impacted businesses following an earthquake, pandemic, or other natural disaster? If yes, describe in detail below.
- Partnerships developed to deliver resources and services in the box below.
- Other. Describe any other COVID-related communications your city offered to help businesses sustain, recover and/or grow.



22. City's business and worker support to be Safer-at-Work. Select all that apply and describe:

- Business assistance to stay open safely in response to the CA Governor's and LA County's COVID-19 executive Stay at Home order of March 19, 2020:
- Business assistance to re-open safely in response to the changing reopening tier assignments of LA County:
- PPE assistance and resources provided:
- COVID testing and/or vaccine assistance and resources provided:
- Partnerships developed to deliver resources and services:

23. City's workforce support and services. Select all that apply and describe:

- Layoff aversion resources and assistance:
- Workforce development, training, and education resources, programs, and opportunities:
- Employment opportunities and partnerships cultivated and shared:
- Childcare assistance targeted for entering, re-entering, or continuing employment:
- Other Workforce Programs Provided for Businesses.
- Partnerships developed to deliver resources and services:

24. Broadband. Select all that apply:

- Has the city begun or completed a Broadband Master Plan to close your city's digital divide:
- Do city or city partners provide affordable and/or free broadband access to residents or small businesses:
- Do city or city partners provide digital literacy training and resources:
- What Broadband infrastructure improvement(s) have been made or are underway:
- Partnerships developed to deliver connectivity and/or devices to low income households or micro enterprises:



SECTION 3: Additional Criteria – 100 points

25. Does your city have an Economic Development Element within its General Plan?

- Yes
- No

Date the General Plan with the Economic Development Element was approved:

URL Link to General Plan:

26. A minimum of five (5) endorsement letters are required (maximum of 7), of which at least three (3) endorsement letters must come from businesses in your city and no more than 1 from a business organization (i.e., Chamber), on company letter head. At least one of the three business endorsement letters should provide an example of a significant business assistance effort (attraction, expansion, retention, recovery and/or sustainability) during COVID. All letters must specifically state reasons why the city is the most business friendly and endorse the City's quality of service to local businesses as a justification for consideration for the Most Business Friendly City in LA County Award during and in response to COVID-19. Endorsement letters should be as current as possible. Please note that points will be deducted from your score if you do not submit the required five (5) endorsement letters. Forward all endorsement letters and any other attachments/materials you would like with your application to: MBFC@laedc.org.

Provide a list of the 5-7 endorsement letters with name, title, and organization/business name below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



27. Describe why your city is the Most Business Friendly in L.A. County. What other extraordinary efforts (not already discussed above) has your city provided to assist businesses most impacted by COVID-19 disruptions? (750 words maximum).

THANK YOU and GOOD LUCK!