


Date: May 9, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Meredith Reynolds, Special Deputy City Manager for Recovery 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Long Beach Recovery Act – Fresh Start Long Beach Program**

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The Long Beach Recovery Act (LB Recovery Act), approved by the City Council in March 2021, is a combination of State, local, and federal funds structured into three focus areas: Securing our City's Future, Healthy and Safe Communities, and Economic Recovery. The programs outlined in the Economic Recovery section specifically were a result of five economic equity studies and feedback from over 30 listening sessions with over 350 community representatives.

On September 7, 2021, the City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Economic Development Department to create a Fresh Start Long Beach Program by allocating Long Beach Recovery Act Funds to lessen the financial burden on Long Beach business owners who have outstanding business license fees as a direct result of COVID-19 hardships and to include businesses that have closed.

### **LB Recovery Act – Fresh Start Implementation**

The Fresh Start Grant Program provided financial relief to businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by crediting funds to delinquent business taxes and fees, including outstanding business license taxes and health and fire department fees, to lessen the financial burden on Long Beach business owners. In alignment with the City Council direction, eligible businesses may be currently open or permanently closed, and must:

- Hold a City of Long Beach business license with a license type from a sector highly impacted by the pandemic
- Not be a corporate chain
- Have no active and unresolved code enforcement, fire, or health violations

Awards for the Fresh Start Program provided a credit up to \$599 per business for a total of over \$930,000 in awards to 1,790 businesses. Awarded business types include those previously identified as highly impacted under the Recovery grant programs, Personal Services and Fitness Relief, and Restaurant, Brewery and Bar Relief. The list of business types was also expanded to include retail, some hospitality and arts, and additional services. This grant was applied directly to businesses' taxes and fees owed to the City. In order to minimize the administrative burden to small businesses, there was no application, and no additional action required to accept this award, but businesses could opt out if they did not want to have this

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award credited to their account. For the complete list of included business types, visit: [www.longbeach.gov/smallbizgrants](http://www.longbeach.gov/smallbizgrants).

As new programs come online, City staff will continue to provide detailed information through memoranda, press releases, and updates to the City's Long Beach Recovery Act website. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Reynolds, Special Deputy City Manager for Recovery, at (562) 570-6677 or [Meredith.Reynolds@longbeach.gov](mailto:Meredith.Reynolds@longbeach.gov).

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