

# Victorian Government COVID-19 Business Support

*12 August 2021*

All Victorian Businesses are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan. Need help? Visit [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) or call the Business Hotline 13 22 15  
Do you need support? For more information on testing and support payments, visit [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 675 398

# Victorian Business Support – July to August 2021

- A further **\$1.16 billion** in joint Commonwealth-State funding has been announced in recent weeks under three **Victorian Business Support Packages** to support small and medium businesses.
- New **Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two (BCAP2)** programs
  - \$156 million *Business Continuity Fund*: new \$5,000 grants to businesses in 24 eligible sectors (additional \$2,000 for businesses in Melbourne CBD).
  - \$266 million *Business Costs Assistance Program Round Three (BCAP3)*: further automatic top-up payments of \$2,800 to eligible BCAP2 and BCAP2 Extension recipients.
  - \$271 million *Business Costs Assistance Program*: eligible businesses in metropolitan Melbourne will automatically receive a payment of \$2,800.
- New **Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund 2021 (LHVF2021)** programs:
  - \$70 million *Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund 2021 – Continuity Payment*: new grants of up to \$20,000 (additional \$2,000 for businesses in Melbourne CBD)
  - \$70 million in automatic payments of \$5,000 to \$20,000 for eligible LHVF2021 and LHVF2021 Extension recipients.
  - \$55 million in further automatic top-up payments of \$5,000 to \$20,000 for eligible businesses in metropolitan Melbourne.

Businesses that have not previously applied for or have since become eligible to apply for BCAP2 or LHVF21 can now apply through **Extension Streams** to the programs. Applications close **Friday 13 August 2021** on the Business Victoria website

# Small Business COVID Hardship Fund

The \$180 million **Small Business COVID Hardship Fund (SBCHF)** will support eligible small businesses:

- whose operations have been severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions in place between 27 May 2021 and August 2021
- have experienced at least a 70% reduction in turnover as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions
- are ineligible for other key COVID-19 Victorian Government business grant programs that have been announced since 27 May 2021.

The program offers grants of \$10,000 to eligible small and medium businesses, including employing and non-employing businesses that are registered for GST.

Applications open 12 August and close 10 September 2021.

See further details on the Business Victoria website.

# Microbusiness Concierge Service

A dedicated service to help Victorian sole traders and microbusinesses with an annual turnover of less than \$75,000, who are not eligible for Victorian Government COVID-19 business support grants.

The service is designed to help these businesses understand what support is available, including:

- Advice on eligibility for Victorian Government business grant programs
- Referrals to Victorian Government business support programs, such as the Small Business Digital Adaptation Program, Business recovery and resilience mentoring, and the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline
- Assistance to help understand the application process for the Commonwealth Government COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

The service can be accessed by calling the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15 and selecting '3' for the dedicated Microbusiness Concierge Service. Businesses can also book an appointment for a session, at a time of their choosing, with a Concierge team member to talk in more detail about available supports.

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# Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme 2021

- The Government has passed legislation to provide rent relief to commercial tenants that have experienced a loss in turnover of more than 30 per cent due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- The protections apply from 28 July 2021 and are largely modelled on the previous CTRS, with improvements made for the practical operation of the scheme.
- Full details of the operation of the Scheme will be available shortly.
- Tenants and landlords can contact the Victorian Small Business Commission for further information on 13 87 22 or visit [vsbc.vic.gov.au](http://vsbc.vic.gov.au).

## Support for commercial landlords

- To help landlords providing rent relief to eligible tenants, the Government will provide land tax relief of up to 25 per cent, in addition to any previous CTRS land tax relief.
- Small landlords who can demonstrate acute hardship will be eligible to apply for a grant as part of a **\$20 million Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund**.
- Full details will be available shortly on the Business Victoria website.

# Mentoring and well-being support

- The **Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring program** is available to help small businesses navigate the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Partners in Wellbeing helpline** provides free confidential, professional advice and wellbeing support for business owners seven days a week.
- The **Small Business Digital Adaptation Program** will reopen soon for applications, providing \$1200 rebates so small businesses can access a range of digital business tools. Businesses are able to register their interest at [business.vic.gov.au](https://business.vic.gov.au) to be informed when the program opens.
- See the full range of Small Business Victoria supports at [business.vic.gov.au](https://business.vic.gov.au)