

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can take advantage of the SBAM Foundation's Small Business Support Hub (SBSH)?

The SBAM Foundation's Hub is designed to support established 1st stage and 2nd stage businesses disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Hub provides free programming, courses, events, and support designed to help your business recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and help you achieve the success you seek for your business.

What is an established 1st stage or 2nd stage business?

In general, an established 1st or 2nd stage business is one that has been in business for at least two years and has moved past the start-up stage to achieve some level of operational stability. While there are no rock-solid criteria for identifying a 1st or 2nd stage business, they often have achieved annual revenues approaching \$500,000 to over \$1 million, have between 2 and 99 employees, and are ready and willing to grow to the next level.

If my business does not meet all the characteristics of an established 1st or 2nd stage business, or if I am not sure if my business is in the 1st or 2nd stage, should I still apply?

Yes! If, after we review your Hub Application, we determine that you do not qualify for the SBAM Foundation's Hub, we will do our best to refer you to other Small Business Support Hubs within Michigan for assistance. Again, all without cost or obligation to you. You have nothing to lose by applying.

I am just a sole proprietor. Does my business need to be an S-Corp, or an LLC, to qualify for the SBAM Foundation's SBSH?

No. You need only be an established, 1st stage or 2nd stage for-profit business located in Michigan with fewer than 500 employees to apply to our program. The benefits associated with our SBSH are not available to nonprofit organizations.

Does my participation in the SBAM Foundation's Hub have any cost or obligation?

No. Participation in the SBAM Foundation's Hub is available at no cost or obligation to you or your business. As an approved Participant in our SBSH, you'll gain access to a wide range of programs, courses, and events tailored to support your business growth, enhance stability, and improve overall efficiency.

If I own more than one business, can I apply under multiple business names for participation in the SBAM Foundation's Hub?

Yes. If you own multiple businesses, you're eligible to apply for our Hub for each of them. You'll need to complete the application process individually for each business for which you intend to apply. Once you've completed and submitted one application, you can start a new one for each additional business. This allows each of your businesses to be considered for our Hub independently.

Do I have to be a dues-paying member of SBAM to apply for participation in the SBAM Foundation's Hub?

No, you do not have to be a member of SBAM, or any business or trade association, to apply for participation in the SBAM Foundation's Hub.

What is the process for applying for participation in SBAM Foundation's Hub?

The process for applying and being accepted into our Hub is simple:

- Complete the Hub Application found on our website: www.sbam.org/sbsh
- SBAM Foundation personnel will review your application and notify you if you have been accepted into the program.
- Once you are accepted into the Hub as a Participant, you will have full access to the various programs, events, support content, and technical assistance offered through our Hub partners and subject matter experts.

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What must I do to participate in the SBAM Foundation's Hub?

To participate in the SBAM Foundation's Hub, you'll need to follow these steps:

- Visit www.sbam.org/sbsh and fill out the application form provided. Make sure to provide all required information accurately.
- After submitting your application, you'll be notified of your acceptance or denial into the program. This notification will inform you of the next steps.
- If accepted as a Participant, you'll gain access to various programs, courses, and events specifically designed to support business growth, enhance stability, and improve efficiency.

By being accepted into the program, you'll position your business to benefit from the support and opportunities offered by the SBAM Foundation through the Hub.

Are the programs, courses, or events provided by the SBAM Foundation's Hub available to my employees or just me as an owner?

Approval to participate in the SBAM Foundation Hub is granted at the business level. Each business may register up to six (6) owners and employees to take advantage of the programs, courses, and events in our catalog. Some materials are designed for business owners, while other programs are intended for managers or line employees.

Are direct grant funds available?

Your admittance into our Hub gives you direct and free access to all the programs, courses, events, and resources we are providing under our Hub. While we did have direct grant aspect through this grant program, all funding has been awarded as of December 31, 2025, and we will not have additional dollars to award.



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