

NYC SBS Business PREP Risk Assessment and Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Business PREP Risk Assessment and Grant Program?

The Business Preparedness and Resiliency Program (Business PREP) helps small businesses prepare for emergencies and enhance the resiliency of their operations, assets, and physical space in the event of a disaster or business interruption. Through the Risk Assessment and Grant Program, small business owners impacted by Superstorm Sandy are eligible for an on-site risk assessment. Businesses that receive an assessment can also qualify for a grant for up to \$3,000 to buy items or equipment that will improve their disaster resiliency.

I am interested in the Risk Assessment and Grant Program. How does the process work?

The first step is to submit an application. You can apply online [here](#). (If you are unable to complete the application online, an NYC SBS representative can complete an application for you over the telephone. Email us at businessprep@aecom.com to request this.

Your application will be reviewed to determine your business eligibility. If you are determined to be eligible, a program representative will contact you to schedule the on-site risk assessment at your place of business. After the assessment, the team will provide you with a report that includes recommendations on how to improve the resiliency of your business together with a list of recommended items or equipment that you can buy with the grant.

How do I know if I am eligible?

The criteria are as follows:

- You must be a for-profit, taxpaying, Small Business Administration-defined small business operating in New York City.
- Your business experienced loss, damage, and/or interruption as a result of Hurricane Sandy through flooding or power outage. Your business is still located in the Sandy flood or power outage zone.
- You, your business, all principal owners are not barred from receiving federal funding.

If you meet these criteria, it is likely that your business will qualify for an on-site resiliency assessment.

What is the deadline for applications?

The program is first-come, first-served within specific geographic boundaries. SBS will continue to process applications and subsequent grants until the funding has been exhausted.

What does the team do when they come out for the risk assessment?

Our team of experts will assess your physical space and speak with you about your operations and insurance coverage to determine what vulnerabilities you may face in a disaster and what could be done to be better prepared and lessen your risks.

What do I need to prepare for the assessment?

We recommend that you gather insurance documents and a copy of your lease. Additionally, if you have already done any emergency or business continuity planning, you should have those documents at hand to share with the assessment team.

We also recommend that the business owner be present at the assessment, along with any key operations personnel that he/she would like to include and who might be helpful in describing the business operations to the assessment team as they walk through the premises.

What will this cost me?

There is no cost to the business owner.

How long does the process take?

You will know whether you are eligible for an on-site assessment within seven (7) business days of the receipt of your application. If you are eligible, we will contact you to schedule the risk assessment at your convenience. The assessment itself will take roughly 2-4 hours. After the initial visit, the assessment team will create a customized report and determine which items they recommend. The team will schedule a follow-up visit of about one hour to discuss the report with you and collect your signed grant agreement. SBS will sign the grant agreement and return a copy to you, after which you have thirty (30) days to purchase your desired items/equipment and submit required documentation to SBS for reimbursement.

Where does funding for the program come from?

The program was made possible by funds that were allocated to New York City and New York State by the Federal Government's Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR). The funds are intended to provide resiliency services to small businesses like yours.

What is the best way to contact you?

Email us at businessprep@aecom.com.