

From: Sam (b) [REDACTED]
To: Isabel.guzman@sba.gov
Cc: Guzman, Isabella C.
Subject: Application
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 10:18:14 AM

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Can you please look into this and get this resolved it's been four weeks already. And now I'm being ignored completely. Poor person who voted for Joe Biden, he has let us down. If you can please have someone contact me at area code (b) (6) [REDACTED] thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sam (b) (6), (b) (4) [REDACTED] <sam.(b) [REDACTED]@ (b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Date: June 4, 2021 at 1:38:07 AM EDT
To: "Hein, Jonel F." <jonel.hein@sba.gov>
Cc: Press Office <press_office@sba.gov>
Subject: Re: Application

This answer is unacceptable. This application is being mishandled and your office is now aware of this. My this is ridiculous. The hotline I have spoken to several times and they don't have access to the reason it's being delayed. This application was to be priority as this is a female owned business. It's being delayed for no reason and what's going to happen is, we will be told that you have no more funds by the time someone actually reaches this application. I'm pointing out flaws with the sba process and how our application is being handled. Now it's being brushed off. My Confirmation ID: (b) (4), (b) [REDACTED]. I'm demanding this be escalated at this time as it's way beyond the 21 days. It's now 27 days. Otherwise I will reach out to the media and supply copies of my emails and my story and point out all the flaws and hassles and how the sba is no help. I will also obtain an attorney pro Bono and sue the director of the sba and the president of the United States. Our president walked into a Mexican restaurant 2 days after the program rolled out and told the female owner her application is approved and it's being funded. On cino da Mayo. That was a show. For the media. I'm demanding this be addressed by your office and we get the help we need. We have less than \$500 in out bank account. This is ridiculous. Please help us.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 3, 2021, at 10:12 PM, Hein, Jonel F. <jonel.hein@sba.gov> wrote:

Mr. (b) (6), (b) (4) [REDACTED], thank you for your email. Unfortunately, we at the

district level don't have a view into the Restaurant Revitalization Fund program; our Office of Capital Access has responsibility for this program and they have set up a call center to answer questions from applicants, 844-279-8898. Information on how to get help through this call center is located in the Restaurant Revitalization Funding Program Guide found here <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-restaurant-revitalization-funding-program-guide> and I've copied it below:

To help support Applicants throughout the process, SBA will offer support through a call center hotline. Additionally, Applicants who need assistance or have limited access to the digital application will be able to apply telephonically.

- Call center hotline (844-279-8898)
- Applicants can call this number for multi-lingual application or program support

Please let me know if I can provide any additional assistance to you.

Jonel Hein
Deputy District Director
North Florida District Office
7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite 100B
Jacksonville, FL 32256
U.S. Small Business Administration
(904) 443-1900
Cell (b) (6)
Fax (202) 481-2693
jonel.hein@sba.gov

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-----Original Message-----

From: Press Office <press_office@sba.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 9:26 PM
To: Hein, Jonel F. <jonel.hein@sba.gov>
Subject: FW: Application

Hi Ms. Hein,

Can you please help Mr. (b) (4), (b) (6) ?

Thank you!

-----Original Message-----

From: Sam (b) (4), <sam.(b) (4).@(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:37 PM
To: Press Office <press_office@sba.gov>
Subject: Re: Application

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(b) (6), fl

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 3, 2021, at 8:30 PM, Press Office
<press_office@sba.gov> wrote:

In what city and state are you located?

-----Original Message-----

From: Sam (b) (4), <sam.(b) (4).@(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 5:35 PM
To: Press Office <press_office@sba.gov>
Subject: Application

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Good afternoon

It's been 27 days since we applied for the restaurant revitalization program. Nobody can give us a reason as to why it's been delayed however they can't tell us that takes up to 21 days which we already exceeded that. I'd like someone to contact me back and tell me what's

going on. Please supply me with a phone number to contact you. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Debra L. ...](#)
To: [...](#)
Subject: ...
Attachments: ...

From: [Hector Mela](#) (mailto:...) (mailto:...) (mailto:...)
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:00 AM
To: [...](#)

Re: [...](#)
When: [...](#)

[REDACTED]

CAUTION: The contents of this message are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not disseminate, distribute, or copy this message.

You are receiving this e-mail because you are listed as a contact of the sender.

From: [Hector Mela](#) (mailto:...) (mailto:...) (mailto:...)

Event: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

From: [...](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Charles E. (b) (6)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Fwd: Extended Funding Timeline Restaurant Revitalization Fund APPROVALS
Date: Friday, May 21, 2021 5:18:01 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Charles (b) (6) <(b) (6)@(b) (6).com>
Date: May 21, 2021 at 4:51:50 PM EDT
To: isabella.casillas.guzman@sba.gov, james.rivera@sba.gov, stephen.kong@sba.gov
Cc: zina.sutch@sba.gov, gaye.walker@sba.gov, larry.stubblefield@sba.gov, Belinda Nichols <bbn@cubbank.com>
Subject: **Extended Funding Timeline Restaurant Revitalization Fund APPROVALS**

Secretary Guzman

Madame Secretary I, Charles (b) (6) (a Disabled and Retired Veterans who just also happens to be an Afro American (Prior Group 1)), am reaching out to you for some answers and most importantly resolution. My two restaurants were both approved late last week and have been posted as status of "Payment Sent" in the RRF portal and "Disbursed Current" in the CAWEB portal since then.

** (b) (4)
Confirmation # (b) (4)

** (b) (4)
Confirmation (b) (4)

When I called the RRF hotline this morning to check on why the funds had not hit my bank accounts and I was told that they had been sent out and to check with my bank on when they would release them to my account. After conversing with my bank (who participated in the PPP funding and are cc'd on this email) it was confirmed that no funds had been sent to them as of date.

This is extremely frustrating and will be a gut punch when it is reported at the end of the week that those in my same situation had been funded when actually that is not the truth. I am requesting your attention to swiftly resolve this matter since the Priority period closes on Mon 24 May 2021.

Please advise

Regards

Charles (b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Fiona Ma](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Fwd: Introduction to William Stephanie Foundation
Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 3:16:25 PM
Attachments: [Introduction to William Stephanie Foundation.docx](#)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Fiona Ma [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@([b) (6)]>
Date: May 5, 2021 at 11:46:11 AM PDT
To: Isabella.Guzmán@sba.gov
Subject: Fwd: Introduction to William Stephanie Foundation

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Sieu <danielsieu@([b) (6)]>
Date: May 4, 2021 at 9:46:18 AM PDT
To: Fiona ma <[REDACTED]@([b) (6)]>
Cc: Genevieve Jopanda <Genevieve.Jopanda@treasurer.ca.gov>, Sweetheart [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@([b) (6)]>
Subject: Introduction to William Stephanie Foundation

Madam Treasurer,

Per our prior conversations, I have attached an introduction to William Stephanie Foundation. This summary outlines how we have been providing access to State and Federal assistance programs, reaching hard to reach underserved communities. Our methodology incorporates the cooperation and collaboration of community service organizations, Foreign Consulates, elected officials and other community stakeholders from within these communities. Please help us by providing this introduction to those in Washington who have the power and vision to help us implement this program.

Daniel Sieu
Chairman



William Stephanie Foundation

626-922-0529

danielsieu@williamstephaniefoundation.org

danielsieu@ (b) (6)

From: [Joel Gossett](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Germicidal Ultraviolet (GUV) Light Sterilization for Small Businesses
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 12:09:41 PM
Attachments: [Lumalier-Food-and-Bev-Mfg-Solutions-v1.pdf](#)
[UVGI White-Paper.pdf](#)
[BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf](#)

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Dear Isabella,

I would like to see if my team and I may offer you any assistance in creating a healthier/safer environment for our nations small businesses.

Along the lines of COVID/Health and Wellness, my company is partnered with a leading USA manufacturer of UV Germicidal Disinfecting Lighting Systems who have over 50 years experience in this particular industry.

This technology is installed inside any existing ventilation system and provides high level, facility wide disinfection of airborne infectious pathogens that can cause respiratory sickness, disease, and infection. It kills or neutralizes viruses, bacteria and black mold. Including, C diff. Measles, Influenza, TB, Pneumonia, Staph/MRSA, SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of Covid-19, and many others.

This system is turn-key, reduces maintenance costs, and will absolutely provide a safer & healthier environment for staff and customers. The system also works in 'any' environment, retail, banks, K-12, universities, correctional facilities, healthcare, airports, etc.

This system qualifies for funding under the CARES Act package.

My team and I would be happy to schedule a brief call with you to discuss further. Please let me know if that is something you would like us to set up?

I have included a brochure, CARES Act information, as well as white paper on the technology for your review.

Sincerely,

Joel Gossett
Diversified Medical Systems, LLC
President

[\(505\)400-8823](tel:(505)400-8823)

[joelg\(b\)\(6\)](mailto:joelg(b)(6)@diversifiedmedical.com)

“Every noble work is at first impossible”
-Thomas Carlyle

Infection Prevention/PPE Products-

Medical Partners International
www.medpint.com

Patient Safety & Fall Reduction-
Medical Technologies, Int'l
www.mtisupply.com

From: James [b]
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#); [Griffin, Antwaun D.](#); [Lewis, Ann L.](#); [Harriford, Scott](#)
Subject: Issues with RRF Application 29e600093143
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 2:05:08 PM
Attachments: [May 14th Correspondence.png](#)
[May 19th Correspondence.png](#)
[May 17th Correspondence.png](#)
[RRF Award Review Correspondence 05142021.pdf](#)
[RRF Award Review Correspondence 05172021.pdf](#)

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I am in the priority group and submitted my application for the RRF as soon as the portal opened on the morning of May 3rd. I misunderstood the language of gross receipts and I accidentally put in my 'Total Sales' amount from my 2019 P&L instead of the correct 'Total Income' amount into the 2019 gross receipts window on the portal. The total income is the same amount reflected on my business's federal tax return, which I provided to the SBA for required documentation.

Below is a timeline of events.

May 3rd. Submitted application within an hour of portal opening.

May 14th. First response for correction with incorrect option to upload more documents.

May 17th. Second response for correction with message telling me they're allowing me to make edits but still incorrect option to upload more documents.

May 19th. Third response for correction, this time with the actual ability for me to make the correction.

A reviewer at the SBA for the RRF reached out to me for the correction on May 14th, but they did not give me the option to correct the application immediately. The reviewer instead mistakenly gave me the option to upload more documentation, but all the documentation I submitted with the application is correct. It then took a reviewer until May 19th to finally send my application back for me to make the correction. I was told by a manager on the RRF's hotline that the reviewer should have allowed me to make an edit originally on May 14th.

It is now June 18th and I still have no confirmation from the reviewer. I am deeply concerned because the application has been pushed back to IRS verification unnecessarily since it already went through the IRS verification. The transcripts of tax returns were already sent back by the IRS prior to May 14th. I don't understand why it is necessary for the program to resend and waste more time on this step when all the documents were correct and checked out to begin with. I also don't understand why the reviewer couldn't just correct the amount and approve me since everything checked out.

I was told by multiple people at the RRF that I would not lose my place in line and that my application is time stamped for when I first submitted it on the morning of May 3rd. The SBA said that the RRF program was operating on a first come first served basis for application approvals. Yet, I know of multiple colleagues who submitted their applications long after me and some of which aren't in the priority group that have received approval. Based on my understanding that would mean the program is not operating on a first come first served basis but is instead random.

I'm concerned because I know there is significantly higher demand for the program than there are funds. And it has now come to my attention via an affidavit from the SBA on the RRF, per John Miller's (Deputy Associate Administrator at the SBA) words, that the "SBA is not currently processing any priority applications." This is deeply concerning for me, since if the mistake and delay of the reviewer to send back my application for correction did not occur, then I would have been approved by now, and I also wouldn't be in a group that is not currently being processed. And now we are hours away from the program's funds being exhausted.

I have attached screenshots and letters documenting my experience with this matter.

If you could assist me with this situation that would be extremely helpful. My confirmation ID for the RRF is (b) (4).

Many thanks,
James [REDACTED]

From: [Jerry Mickelson](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Memo to the SBA: SVOG Delays
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 7:35:32 PM

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Dear SBA, below is an email that many of us sent to members of the House and Senate.

Memo to Congress re: SVOG Delays

In the midst of the pandemic, the House and the Senate worked together in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion to Save Our Stages, and thanks to you, the \$16 billion emergency relief bill was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020. You knew that if emergency relief wasn't provided to our shuttered small businesses which had no revenue and massive overhead, not only would there be mass bankruptcies across the country, but we could also never return to our role as economic engines for our local communities.

Sadly, the help you secured for us by enacting the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG) program has yet to arrive. While the rest of the country begins reopening, – COVID-19 –we are still waiting on from the SBA to provide us with working capital

By the Numbers

- **165 days (5 ½ months) after enactment of the law and 45 days(1 ½ months) after the SVOG application portal opened (the second time, after the failed launch on April 8) fewer than 100 grant applications have been approved.**
- Today marks the last day of the 14-day Priority 1 period in which the Small Business Administration (SBA) was supposed to process **all** applications for applicants experiencing greater than 90 percent revenue loss. **There are nearly 5,000 such applications and SBA has only communicated that 50 applications have been processed.**
- The SBA hired 500 reviewers for the SVOG program with funds appropriated

by Congress. **If each analyzed just one application a day, 17,000 applications would have been processed by now. But yet, the SBA has processed fewer than 100 applications in the six weeks since the application portal opened.**

- More than **4,950 small business owners in the first priority period**, those with the greatest need, **and an additional 10,000 small businesses that fall into the second and third priority periods** are still waiting for emergency relief funding. They are scared, frustrated, angry, exhausted, feeling abused, and wondering if desperately needed help will ever arrive.

Timeline of Events

- **December 27, 2020:** SVOG program enacted into law.
- **April 8, 2021:** SVOG application portal opens, crashes and is closed.
- **April 24, 2021:** SVOG application portal reopens successfully.
- **May 4, 2021:** The SBA reports it “began reviewing the SVOG applications upon receipt and it is expected SVOG Priority 1 (90% revenue loss) applicants will receive notice of awards this month and disbursement by the end of May if they respond in a timely manner to the notice of award.” This did not happen.
- **May 26, 2021:** Administrator Guzman testified before the House and Senate Small Business Committees that SVOG grants have started, and while it would be slow at first but there would be a ramp up. This did not happen.
- **June 3, 2021:** SBA reported just 50 award notices (very few of which have actually received emergency relief funds) had been issued. Since then, there has been no update on the number of applicants receiving award notices despite SBA promising stakeholders and Congress that updates would be provided daily.
- **June 9, 2021:** The last day of the 14-day Priority 1 period in which SBA was supposed to process **all** applications for applicants experiencing greater than

90 percent revenue loss. **There are nearly 5,000 such applications and SBA has only communicated that 50 applications have been processed.**

We are past our breaking point. We can't hang on any longer. We want to participate in America's economic recovery, but our venues can't afford to re-open our businesses. We have no funds left - many of us have exhausted our PPP loans, our EIDL loans and whatever assistance we've been able to garner at the State and Local levels. We don't have the capital to restock food and drinks for the customers we hope to welcome back or make offers on shows. We are losing professional staff to well-capitalized, larger corporate competitors. We are losing longtime wait staff because we can't compete with the wages offered by bars and restaurants who received support via the quickly administered Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

The SBA, whose sole purpose is to help small businesses, is demonstrating a lack of urgency and ability to execute this desperately needed emergency relief program. The SBA's delay is actually driving more of our small businesses under – all while the \$16 billion in emergency funding waits to be administered.

We ask that you get this funding into the hands of small businesses owners to Save Our Stages by doing the following:

- **Award grants now.**
- **Distribute funds now.**
- **Cross check the Income Tax returns later when the 4506 T data arrives.**
- **Notify the potential grantee in the acceptance paperwork that if they submitted false tax returns they will be prosecuted for a felony.**

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] Sent: [REDACTED] To: [REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

Re: [REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b) (6)

Re: [REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED]

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From: [Mara and Pete](#) (b) (6)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Priority period - RRF
Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8:23:22 AM
Attachments: [Priority period - RRF.msg](#)

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From: [Fred Woehrle](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Cc: secyraimondo@doc.gov; [Hubzone Helpdesk](#)
Subject: Racial preferences in restaurant relief in American Rescue Plan Act
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 11:27:49 AM

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What is the SBA's response to claims that the priority given to black, Hispanic, and female restaurant owners in the American Rescue Plan's aid to restaurant owners violates the Constitution's equal-protection guarantee?

This seems to violate the Supreme Court's decisions in *Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.* (1989) and *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña* (1995).

Lawyers and law professors claim this race-based priority for black, Hispanic, and female restaurant owners violates the Constitution. See, e.g., Jonathan Turley, "Biden's COVID aid: Is it 'preference' or 'prejudice,'" *The Hill*, May 22, 2021 (<https://thehill.com/opinion/judiciary/554886-bidens-covid-aid-is-it-preference-or-prejudice>); Mairead McArdle, "Biden's Restaurant Relief Program Excludes White Male Owners: White males will not be considered for three weeks, when the program is expected to be depleted," *The Daily Wire*, May 12, 2021 (<https://www.dailywire.com/news/bidens-restaurant-relief-program-excludes-white-male-owners>).

Specifically, they say there's no evidence of recent, widespread, intentional discrimination against minorities and women by the government (or people acting in cahoots with the government), as the Constitution requires for a race-based priority of this sort. So the Small Business Administration and the Commerce Department are violating the Constitution by giving priority to certain restaurant owners based on their race, under the American Rescue Plan.

From: [Hugo from CNY Latino](#)
To: [Coleman, Matthew R.](#)
Cc: [Press Office](#)
Subject: RE: Administrator Isabella Castillas Guzman Announces Initial Results of Restaurant Revitalization Fund
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:04:26 PM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)

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Hi...

Thanks for this material.

Any chance we could arrange for a prerecorded interview with Administrator Isabella Castillas Guzman..? for our weekly "Spanish" radio show.

Please, let me know;

Hugo

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Email: hacosta@CNYPatino.com
Corporate: <http://www.CNYPatino.com>
Newspaper: <http://www.CNYPatinoNewspaper.com>

From: Coleman, Matthew R. <Matthew.Coleman@sba.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:19 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Administrator Isabella Castillas Guzman Announces Initial Results of Restaurant Revitalization Fund

NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Administrator Isabella Castillas Guzman Announces Initial Results of Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The SBA receives 186,000 applications in 36 hours; more than half of applications are from priority underserved business communities

WASHINGTON - [Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman](#), the head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced the initial results of the successful May 3rd launch of the [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#), showing more than 186,000 applications from restaurants and other food and beverage businesses in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. The \$28.6 billion program, signed into law by President Joe Biden as part of the American Rescue Plan, provides economic aid to restaurants and other establishments struggling to make ends meet as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The promising results send a clear message: The SBA is here to help America's restaurants and bars get back on track.

"Our nation's restaurants have been among the first and worst hit by this pandemic, which is why we've been working as fast as possible to meet businesses where they are and get this much-needed relief into their hands," said SBA Administrator Guzman. "As directed by Congress, we're prioritizing historically underserved communities and smaller businesses to ensure this relief is going to those who need it the most. At the SBA, we know that our nation's restaurants help propel our economy and sustain our neighborhoods and communities, and we will continue to work hard to ensure they get the resources they need to recover, rebuild and become resilient."

In the first two days of the RRF application window, the SBA has received:

- 186,200 applications from restaurants, bars, and other eligible businesses in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and five U.S. Territories.
- 97,600 applications of which came from restaurants, bars, and other eligible businesses owned and controlled by women (46,400), veterans (4,200), socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (30,800), or some combination of the three (16,200).
- 61,700 applications from businesses with under \$500,000 in annual pre-pandemic revenue, representing some of the smallest restaurants and bars in America.

In the weeks leading up to the opening of this program, the SBA engaged with hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs -- in hundreds of webinars and events held in multiple languages -- to make sure they were ready to apply. Further, to support demand for this funding opportunity, the SBA expanded the RRF ecosystem to include point-of-sale vendors, providing more ways for eligible restaurants to take advantage of the program.

As outlined by Congress, restaurants and bars are eligible for economic aid equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss, with a cap of \$10 million per business and \$5 million per location. The funds are available for certain eligible uses, like payroll and rent.

While all qualified businesses are allowed to apply, under the law, the SBA will prioritize RRF applications from small business concerns owned and controlled by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for the first 21 days of the program. Following the 21-day period, all eligible applications will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

To further ensure the equitable distribution of relief, \$9.5 billion in set-asides have been established

for the smallest restaurants and bars – including millions of dollars for restaurants, bars, and food trucks with under \$50,000 in revenue.

Approved applicants should expect an average of 14 days for processing, review, approval and funds distribution. Those interested in applying to the program should visit sba.gov/restaurants (English) or sba.gov/restaurantes (Spanish) for sample application, program guide, and more, including information in 38 languages in addition to English and Spanish. The application window will remain open until RRF funds have been fully exhausted.

###

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov. ☒

Matt Coleman

Regional Communications Director

U.S. Small Business Administration

matthew.coleman@sba.gov

From: [Winter \(b\) \(6\),](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Restaurant revitalization fund
Date: Thursday, June 17, 2021 6:48:23 PM

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Hello Ms. Guzman,

My name is Winter (b) (4), (b) and we applied for the restaurant revitalization fund. I've been under review since we applied and honestly I'm scared. We opened the (b) (4) in June of 2019, put all of our savings into opening our own business. We had no idea a pandemic was going to happen and times would be so hard for a restaurant to survive. My Sister, Aunt and myself are struggling so bad and honestly all the prices on product are going up and there's no hole insight for us to stay float longer than a month or 2. We was priority I believe we filled out the application around May 21. Is there any hope?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joann (b) [REDACTED]
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: RRF #8abe00136417
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 5:05:38 PM

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Good afternoon

I'm trying every avenue to acknowledge my priority application # (b) (4) before funds run out. I submitted my application @ 12:27pm on day one, I went under review very quickly. I made a mistake and put in my net sales not gross sales. I fixed my mistake on 5/20/2021 and have been in IRS verification ever since. I've called daily and check the portal but no movement. I'm 100% woman owned and have been in business for 24 years without this relief I don't see my restaurant surviving. If you cannot help can you send me in the direction where I can get my priority application reviewed.

Thank you for your time.

-Best

JoAnn (b) (6) [REDACTED]

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

(b) (4) [REDACTED]

(b) (4) [REDACTED]

From: Ben (b) (6)
To: Guzman, Isabella C.
Subject: RRF Conf. ID# (b) (4) - Veteran Requests Advice
Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 3:54:01 AM

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Dear Ms. Guzman,

I neglected to say that I was referred to you by Mrs. Johnson in Larry Stubblefield's office when I sent my previous email, below.

Thank you,

Haskell Ben (b) (6)

From: Ben (b) (6) <[\(b\) \(6\) @ \(b\) \(6\) .com](mailto:(b) (6) @ (b) (6) .com)>
Subject: RRF Conf. ID# (b) (4) - Veteran Requests Advice
Date: June 21, 2021 at 3:26:05 PM PDT
To: isabella.guzman@sba.gov

Dear Ms. Guzman,

I applied for an RRF Grant (Conf. ID# (b) (4)) at the very first moment on May 3. I did not apply for priority status even though I'm a veteran (U.S. Army 1966-1968).

My application has been Under Review since May. I own a neighborhood bar that was established in 1955 and it's the way I support my family. We were closed for 16 months and I'm buried in debt. The RRF grant is the only way we can survive.

I fear that my application is being overlooked and I wonder if you can give me some advice. I'm sorry to be a bother, but I've done everything early and right and I'm a bit desperate.

Thank you,

Haskell Ben (b) (6)
(b) (4)

From: Ben (b) [REDACTED]
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: RRF Conf. ID# (b) (4) [REDACTED] - Veteran Requests Advice
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 6:26:15 PM

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Dear Ms. Guzman,

I applied for an RRF Grant (Conf. ID# (b) (4) [REDACTED]) at the very first moment on May 3. I did not apply for priority status even though I'm a Veteran (U.S. Army 1966-1968).

My application has been Under Review since May. I own a neighborhood bar that was established in 1955 and it's the way I support my family. We were closed for 16 months and I'm buried in debt. The RRF grant is the only way we can survive.

I fear that my application is being overlooked and I wonder if you can give me some advice. I'm sorry to be a bother, but I've done everything early and right and I'm a bit desperate.

Thank you,

Haskell Ben (b) [REDACTED] n

(b) (4) [REDACTED]

From: [David Smith](#)
To: [Levine, Nina D.](#); [Hamilton, Peggy Delinois](#)
Subject: RRF Fraud
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:34:01 AM

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Nina and Peggy,

I am writing to express my grave concern about the SBA's implementation of the RRF.

As the RRF funds being disbursed, the SBA plainly represented: "Following the 21-day priority period, all eligible applications will be funded in the order in which they have been received. " <https://www.sba.gov/article/2021/may/10/sba-funds-16000-restaurant-revitalization-fund-awards>

However, in recent documents filed with the courts, however, the SBA is now stating that they have stopped processing priority applications filed by women, people of color and veterans.

This is particularly egregious since those priority groups were the hardest in COVID and have a history of being pushed to the back of the line. It is wrong for the SBA to amplify that already disproportionate impact.

Women, people of color and veterans have been pushed to the back of the line enough.

John Miller's June 3 declaration in the Sixth Circuit *Vitolo* case states the SBA is not currently processing "any" priority applications. The SBA "will only resume" once the SBA "COMPLETES the processing for all previously filed non-priority applications."

The practical effect is that non-priority applicants who applied AFTER a priority applicant will continue to get processed and approved until such time that the SBA finally completes the processing of all non-priority applications before the priority application. The problem arises because the processing of applications are not "completed" in order. It sometimes takes WEEKS to complete the processing of an application--as has already been demonstrated by approvals given with the program. Therefore, non-priority applicants who applied AFTER priority applicants will be processed BEFORE earlier filed priority applications.

That is not in the spirit of the law or American Rescue Plan and unfairly disadvantages earlier filed Priority applicants.

Please correct the processing of applications --non-priority and priority - so they are processed in the order they were received.

Thank you for your attention,

David

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]
Date: Thu, 12 Jun 2020 10:20:50 M

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Ms Guzman, I am hoping to get some more information on my application for the 2065 app cards but our visit area is still to only have 1 one retail weeks ago. I have taken the time to call the regional office. From my understanding, it says that no one in the program is supposed to be funded until a minimum of 30 days prior to the application card is processed. The problem is I am ending on the news that you went back to the office of the state to help people but had the application card one day after the card was processed. So my question is if you could please clarify if the application card was processed at some point or if it is only a matter of time before the application card is processed. I am not sure if the application card was processed with a wait list or if the application card was just for a specific area that got to be 1 of the 2065 on each card has received the card?

Thank you
If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [Andrea \(b\)](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#); [Kong, Stephen D.](#); [Kelley, Patrick](#); [Clark III, Major L.](#); [Milobar, Leon J.](#); lisa.tedesco@sba.gov; tbrewer@leg.ne.gov
Subject: SBA and DOJ catastrophic Restaurant Revitalization action
Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 7:26:46 PM

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Dear Applicant,

We regret to inform you that, due to recent court rulings the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will not be able to disperse your Restaurant Revitalization Fund award.

Through the American Rescue Plan Act the SBA launched the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which prioritized applications from small businesses owned and controlled by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for the first 21 days of the program. After SBA launched the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, three lawsuits were filed challenging the 21-day priority application period – one in the Eastern District of Tennessee and two in the Northern District of Texas. These lawsuits have led to three adverse court rulings against the SBA.

The SBA is unable to pay 2965 priority Applicants – including yourself – who were previously approved and notified of their approval. SBA will not pay these claims because the legal conclusions in these Court rulings would preclude payment. Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Justice, On behalf of the SBA, filed a notice and a Declaration in the Northern District of Texas

And the Eastern District of Tennessee to
Notify the courts that these 2,965 payments
Would not be made.

Received Friday, June 11, 2021. How wonderfully indicative of the government's desire to support restaurants across the nation. The support and integrity of government agencies, i.e. Department of Justice (an oxymoron, heavy on the moron) and SBA would be certainly laughable except the 2965 are in tears.

Congratulations to the federal government for destroying, once again, the livelihood of small business owners following SBA's specific directions.

To All:

The 2965 small businesses followed the guidelines set forth by the SBA in good faith, completing an onerous application process within the recommended 21-day deadline. The IRS scrutinized the data and made the decision determining the prioritized applicants. In no way were the 2965 responsible for their prioritized designation, yet they have been penalized for following SBA application instructions.

The integrity of the SBA and Department of Justice is now non-existent. No one should believe the hype any agency spews to the public. If it can rescind funding for applicants who received written confirmation of the funds prior to the injunction, then any funding is questionable and cannot be seriously considered. The SBA and all federal agencies involved with national economic recovery are culpable in the mismanagement and blatant incompetence regarding the rescinding of promised allocations. The best Patrick Kelley could come up with was to the read this email sent last Friday to the aghast 2965 – the money that was promised, in writing, no longer existed. It had been spent elsewhere and the 2965 have no recourse but to take out a low interest loan (SBA says they will defer payment for 2 years. Again, who believes a word they say, and interest will accrue.) Or maybe the 2965 will receive money from the new imaginary \$60 billion pie in the sky Restaurant Revitalization Fund -whenever Congress or whomever decide to move forward, averting a catastrophic outcome for the 2965? The promised funds were a stop gap to provide the small restaurants time to regroup and they believed SBA's promise after receiving funding confirmation, therefore, made appropriate business plans, commiserate with the moneys awarded. Restaurants are under extreme duress: labor/staffing crisis, meat and chicken availability crisis, outrageous inflation crisis. The SBA and DOJ reacted to the lawsuits in Tennessee and Texas with unprecedented speed. SBA says they are unable to disclose details but that is **irrelevant**. All the excuses are **irrelevant**. DOJ and SBA are certainly **irrelevant**. These federal agencies, the Small Business Administration and Department of Justice, had the responsibility, a duty, to honor the commitment to the 2965 restaurants who, in accordance with the SBA's application guidelines applied and received written validation of funding.

The public should be outraged! You should be outraged on behalf of the 2965 victims! I certainly am. Another 2965 restaurants will, in all probability, soon close their doors permanently. As was

told to me, this was the final nail in the coffin. When SBA rescinded their promised funding, the heart went out of owners. What was the point of struggling and working to survive the pandemic and the current crises only to have the federal government deliberately sabotage 2965 business plans? It was unconscionable, cruel, and inhumane. The 2965 paid the price for following SBA directions. This a just another shameful moment in the history of government ineptitude, incompetence, and malicious squandering of public trust.

It makes one ashamed to be an American.

A disappointed, angry, disillusioned, disgusted, and fed-up citizen who no longer believes there is any integrity in this once great nation.

Andrea (b)

(6)

From: [Marc \(b\) \(6\)](#)
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: Shuttered Venues Operators Grant FAQ
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:32:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[4-6-21 SVOG FAQ FINAL.pdf](#)

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Ms. Isabella Guzman,

First, I wanted to THANK the people at the SBA. I understand that a very small Federal agency has been suddenly tasked with saving the entire US Business Community, beginning last year with the PPP and continues today. I know you are understaffed, overworked, hardworking people and never given enough thanks. Therefore, I wanted to THANK YOU once again for all of your efforts.

I've reached out to you on multiple occasions recently concerning the Shuttered Venues Operator Grant, SVOG. I'm reaching out once again due to the release of the FAQ yesterday. As a reminder as I'm sure you've been flooded recently with notes, I'm the COO of (b) (4), a leading supplier of aluminum truss for the Live Events Industry. We are a KEY supplier to the venues for live events, whether it's theater, musical concerts of your favorite artist, or many other events. We are not a venue ourselves, but these venues rely on our services to operate. We too have been dramatically affected by the pandemic, business was off roughly 67% in 2020 and headcount reduced by over 50 employees. Therefore, when I read the FAQ and got to

*Page 4 – Question 16: **Are service and support companies that provide stages, lighting, sound, casts, and other support for live performing arts events or which showcase performers or pre-packaged productions to potential buyers eligible to apply for an SVOG?***

No. The Economic Aid Act is designed to assist only those eligible entities identified in the statute. SVOGs are not available for service providers that support eligible entities.

I was shocked and disappointed. I'm reaching out today to ask that the SBA reconsider this statement and allow suppliers the opportunity to benefit of the SVOG.

Regards,

MARC A. (b) (6)

COO / (b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

From: olga (b) (6),
To: Carson, Barbara E.
Cc: Guzman, Isabella C.; Rivera, James E.; Roebker, Andrea N.; Betz, Alastair M.
Subject: SVOG 4506-T 2019 & 2020
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 10:10:21 AM

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Good Morning,

Please scroll down and see highlighted sentence stating we should have only included 2019 on the 4506-T. We included both 2019 and 2020 because previous instructions indicated the 2020 tax return would be required. **Can you please advise SBA not to reject 4506T's from applicants that included both years?** We are desperately in need of funds and hope the 4506T issue will not prolong approval. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

(b) (4)

Olga (b) (4), (b) (6)

(b) (4)

[This was sent to me via email just now from Nina Ozlu Tunceli. I hope this is helpful for some dealing with these issues.](#)

["I have good news and bad news to share on the latest from SBA on the SVOG program for shuttered venue grants.](#)

[First the Bad News: SBA will miss today's deadline of processing Priority One applications. Only 90 Priority One awards were granted out of 14,000 applications so far. SBA is](#)

still dealing with technical problems. The vast majority of Priority One applications are mistakenly being blocked because of a common name match on a federal Do Not Pay list, a Death Master list, or they just need to correct and resubmit the specific Tax Form 4506-T with “SVOG” pre-written on the top of the form.

Now the Good News: The SBA is moving the SVOG program out of the Office of Disaster Assistance and into the Office of Capital Access, which ran the highly successful \$800 billion PPP program that concluded on May 31st. Additionally, SBA is integrating experts from the efficiently executed Restaurant Revitalization Fund to work on SVOG, along with other interagency reviewers. Perhaps, most importantly, the new SVOG team leaders are new Biden Administration political appointees, who are committed to cutting through the red tape to achieve fast results. Here are some additional developments that will be helpful:

SBA is also setting up new Office Hours and Weekly Emails beginning next week for all SVOG applicants. (Details to come.)

For those of you on the “Do Not Pay List,” the SBA is proactively working to correct 99% of the problems on your behalf. You are being asked to do nothing at this time and you will receive a resolution email within the coming days. SBA

will disregard basic name matches and only rely on multi-factor conclusive matches to hold up the review process. This correction alone will clear the block of 8,000 applications on the Do Not Pay list to just under 30! There is one exception to this advice of "do nothing" and that is if you are on the [SAM.gov](#) Do Not Pay list. In that case, you must correct the problem as soon as possible.

For those of you who received notifications of needing to resubmit a 4506-T Form, you do need to do that promptly. If you need assistance, SVOG will be setting up their office hours for that kind of customized service to assist you. SVOG staff will also be calling to assist applicants as well. SBA acknowledged that 88% of corrected tax forms have already been completed by applicants. The common errors:

You must use the exact SVOG Form 4506-T.

You must limit how much info is permitted to just the tax year 2019.

You must sign with a “wet signature” (ideally use blue ink pen).

For those of you who have still not completed the [SAM.gov](#) process, SBA stated that they will not hold up your award announcements (if applicable). Instead, SBA staff will assist the 2,500+ applicants in finalizing the [SAM.gov](#) registration before dispersing funds.

For those of you who have been locked out of your online application in the SVOG portal, it likely happened because you did not submit a corrected Form 4506-T in the allotted time. SBA recognizes that they put too short of a cure time of just 3-4 days on these requests. This will now be extended to 15 days. They ask you to call the SVOG Tech Hotline at 1-800-659-2955 and ask to re-set your online account so you can upload the new form.

For those of you who have been locked out of your online account because your Google Authenticator changed and you need a new QR code to sync with, please call the SVOG Tech Hotline at 1-800-659-2955 and ask for a new QR code to be emailed to you so you can sync with your new Google Authenticator app.

SBA will begin also reviewing Priority Two applications, but Priority One applications will still be the top priority in order of receipt.

Priority Three applications are still set to be reviewed on June 25th.”

From: Ben (b) [REDACTED]
To: [Guzman, Isabella C.](#)
Subject: U.S. Army Vet (1966-68) Requests Help // RRF Conf # (b) (4) [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:09:11 AM

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Hello,

I checked the Veteran box on my RRF application (conf. # (b) (4) [REDACTED]) but was told today that I didn't receive priority because I didn't check the box.

I am sure I checked the Veteran box and I'm writing to ask for help in recovering my priority position. This grant is crucial to me and my family.

My military number is US (b) (6) [REDACTED] and my date of discharge was (b) (6) [REDACTED].

Thank you very much,

Haskell Ben (b) [REDACTED]
(b) (4) [REDACTED]

From: [olaide \(b\)](#)
To: [Cofield, Natalie M.](#)
Subject: URGENT MATTER- Please respond
Date: Saturday, June 12, 2021 9:54:18 AM

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Dear,

I hope this email finds you well. I would like to express my concerns with the SBA COVID Relief funding programs.

I believe with any situation communication and transparency is the best way to always strive for. With that said, both the **RRF and EIDL TA/SA** have been a nightmare to deal with for me personally.

With the restaurant revitalization fund there is panic in regards to SBA stopping the processing of all **priority applications**. There are "court documents" stating that only non-priority applications would be processed. If this is true, this is very inhumane and unfair to those who were promised to have their applications approved within 21 days.

In regards to the targeted and supplemental advance, I've waited for almost 3 months to get an approval for the **TA**. All my documents were received within a week of filling out my application. I was told that I would get a response soon. That "soon" turned into three months and all responses that I am receiving are copy and paste. The **SA** I also qualify for - I have not received any email. My thought is- SBA is gearing to open the **TA and SA** advance to everyone else soon but still has many issues in processing the applications they have now. What is really going on?

I am looking forward to hearing/seeing your response.

I hope you enjoy your weekend.

All the best,

--

Olaide (b) (6)
E: [olaide@ \(b\) \(4\), \(b\) \(6\).com](mailto:olaide@ (b) (4), (b) (6).com)

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