

## What IS the (Business Resource Initiative (BRI)?

- It is a program through the Tri-City Regional Chamber that is both hosting a place for county & regional resources AND facilitating a ARPA-funded grant through Benton County government.

BRI is designed to assist ALL businesses in Benton County. The **BRI grants** serve small businesses (under 50 FTEs) that were negatively affected by COVID-19. The **Business Resource Navigator** serves all Benton County businesses as a single point of contact to provide custom resource guidance. Big business or small mom-and-pop, we've got you covered.

[www.bentonbri.com](http://www.bentonbri.com)



BUSINESS  
RESOURCE  
INITIATIVE



# What IS this Grant Exactly?

Is is a “Recovery” grant that is funded by Benton County through their allocation of funds from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Benton County and is being managed by the Tri-City Regional Chamber

The \$3 million Benton County BRI grant comes from the federal government via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was appropriated as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Benton County. The Benton County Commissioners allocated \$3 million of the SLFR funds to help Benton County small businesses build a resilient and successful future.



**Application  
Phases**



**\$1 Million Awarded  
Each Phase**

**What is the maximum possible award possible for any one business?**

**\$3,000-\$30,000**

**Grants range from \$3,000 to \$30,000. A maximum grant award will not exceed 6-10% of the applicant's annual business revenue. Businesses are not eligible for more than one BRI award.**

# Grant Timeline

1.

## October – December 2022

- **Month 1:** Application opens October 1, 2022 and closes October 31, 2022 at midnight.
- **Month 2:** Applications will be processed and evaluated
- **Month 3:** The Tri-City Regional Chamber will notify grant awardees and disperse funding

*To be considered for this phase, submit your application: October 1, 2022 through October 31 (midnight), 2022.*

2.

## February – March 2023

- **Month 1:** Application opens February 1, 2023 and closes February 28, 2023 at midnight.
- **Month 2:** Applications will be processed and evaluated
- **Month 3:** The Tri-City Regional Chamber will notify grant awardees and disperse funding

*To be considered for this phase, submit your application: February 1, 2023 through February 28 (midnight), 2023.*

3.

## June – August 2023

- **Month 1:** Application opens June 1, 2023 and closes June 30, 2023 at midnight.
- **Month 2:** Applications will be processed and evaluated
- **Month 3:** The Tri-City Regional Chamber will notify grant awardees and disperse funding

*To be considered for this phase, submit your application: June 1, 2023 through June 30 (midnight), 2023.*

# What Does the BRI Grant Fund?

Awardees must use the grant funds for one or more of the following options:

## Option #1: Workforce Development

- Up to two weeks of payroll for on-the-job training of new employees.
- External training and/or certifications for new or existing employees.

## Option #2: Work Incentives (Bonuses)

- Funding may be used for new employee bonuses up to \$1,200 per new employee
- Bonus recipients will only receive bonus upon completion of at least 12 paid weeks of work (20 hours per week minimum)
- Bonuses paid through employer

## Option #3: Rent and/or Utilities Assistance

- Funds may be used for up to six months rent and/or utilities

## Option #4: Digital Transformation

- Funding may be used to establish an online presence, digital sales platform, and/or utilize digital technologies to create new (or modifying existing) business processes and customer experiences

## Option #5: \*Outdoor Space Enhancement

- Storefront and façade improvements
- \*This option is only available if your business is in a 2022 QCT area:

[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda\\_qct.html?locate=\\$fips\\$](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html?locate=$fips$)

The 2022 Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) are effective January 1, 2022. The 2022 designations use data from the 2010 Decennial census. The designation methodology is explained in the federal Register notice published September 9, 2021

### Map Options

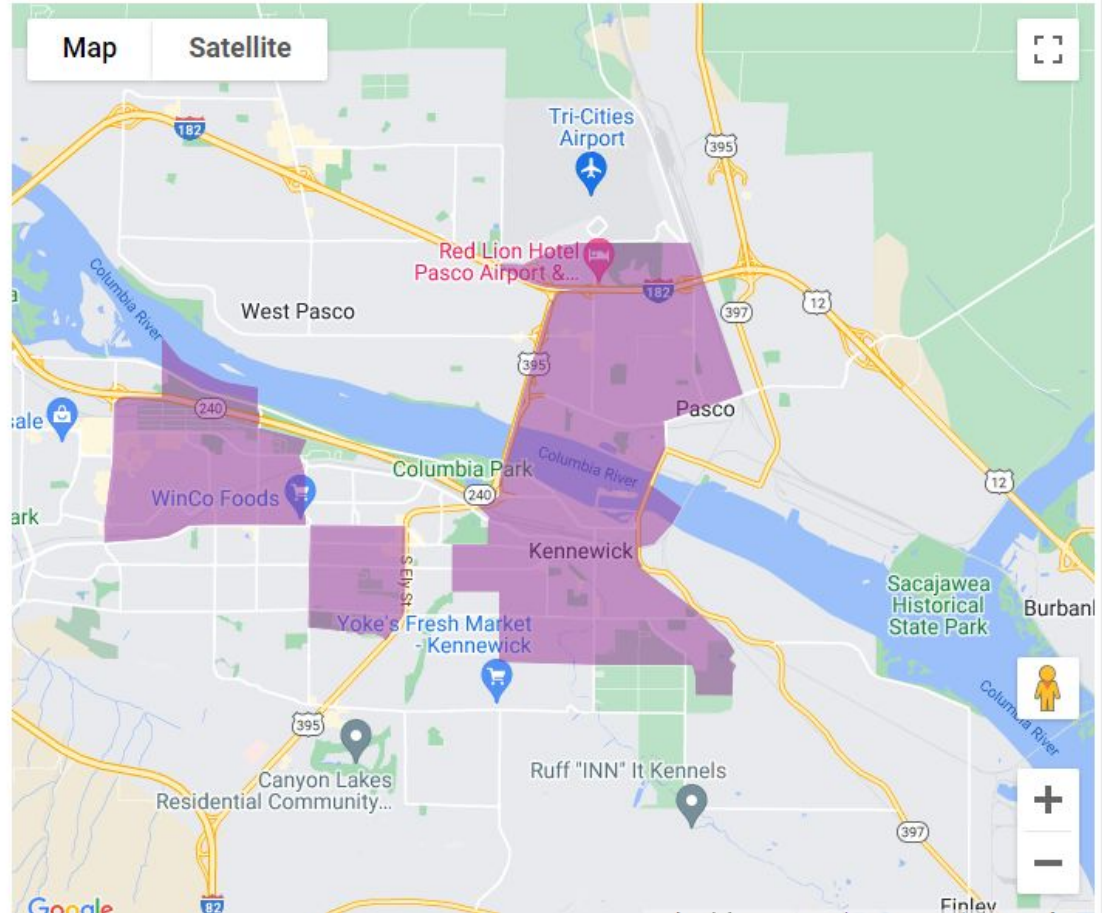
12 Current Zoom Level

- Show Difficult Development Areas (Zoom 7+)
- Color QCT Qualified Tracts (Zoom 7+)
- Show Tracts Outline (Zoom 11+)
- Show FMR Outlines (Zoom 4+)
- Show LIHTC Projects (Zoom 11+)

[Click here for full screen map](#)

### Select Year

- 2022
- 2021



# Who Is Eligible?

- Must be an active business or nonprofit (Nonprofits are eligible to receive funding if they have a primary business activity that is similar to the eligible businesses who qualify for this program)
- Must have a valid government issued photo identification (ID)
- **Must have less than 51 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees**
- **Have not reported annual gross income of more than \$5,000,000 in calendar year 2019**
- **Headquarters or main office physically located in Benton County where a majority of employees are assigned**

<https://bentonbri.com/grant-faqs/>

# Who Is Eligible?

- **Business must be independently owned and operated (Independently owned and operated means that the ownership interests, management, and operation of the business are not subject to control, restriction, modification, or limitation by a person or corporation with no formal role in the operation of the business)**
- Valid and current state and/or local business license as required by law
- **No pending compliance or regulatory issues with state or federal agencies, as of March 1, 2020.**

<https://bentonbri.com/grant-faqs/>



# Who Is Eligible?

- **Must provide financial documentation to validate business income**
  - **2019 Federal Tax Return (if business was open in 2019)**
  - **2020 Federal Tax Return**
  - **2021 Federal Tax Return (or four quarterly Department of Revenue filings)**
  - **Accounting records (bank statements) for the 12 months immediately preceding the date of application showing revenue in prior months, payroll expenses, rent payments, and utility expenses**

## **Do I need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number (formerly DUNS number) to apply for this grant?**

No. You may apply for this grant without a UEI, but cannot receive funds (if awarded) until you have one. If you don't have one yet, apply here: <https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>

<https://bentonbri.com/grant-faqs/>

# UEI used as an abbreviation of Unique Entity ID. What is THAT!?

A Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is a number that identifies your entity registration in SAM.gov. This identifier is assigned by SAM.gov and used in other IAE federal award systems.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires the Unique Entity ID to be used across federal systems, governmentwide, for federal award purposes.

<https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>



You have reached SAM.gov, an official website of the U.S. government. There is no cost to use this site.

## The unique entity identifier used in SAM.gov has changed.

On **April 4, 2022**, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov).

- The Unique Entity ID is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.gov.
- As part of this transition, the DUNS Number has been removed from SAM.gov.
- Entity registration, searching, and data entry in SAM.gov now require use of the new Unique Entity ID.
- Existing registered entities can find their Unique Entity ID by following the steps [here](#).
- New entities can get their Unique Entity ID at SAM.gov and, if required, complete an entity registration.

### [?](#) I manage an entity. What do I need to do?

For more information about this transition, visit [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) or the Federal Service Desk, [FSD.gov](https://fedsupport.com). You can search for help at [FSD](https://fedsupport.com) any time or request help from an FSD agent Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

# What would make my business ineligible for a BRI Grant?

- Disbarment, or current compliance/regulatory issues with state or federal agencies, as of March 1, 2020.
- Actively pursuing a bankruptcy declaration or actively engaged in current/pending lawsuits.
- Ineligible business categories:
  - Marijuana/cannabis operation
  - Government entity or elected official offices
  - Passive business, investment companies and investors who file a Schedule E on their personal tax returns
  - Financial Businesses primarily engaged in the business of lending
  - Businesses engaged in socially undesirable activity or activity that may be considered predatory in nature
  - Businesses of a prurient/sexual nature
  - Businesses primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities
  - Businesses that restrict patronage for any reason other than capacity or age, due to regulations

# Application Process

**Step 1.** Visit BentonBRI.com

<https://bentonbri.com/business-grants/#apply-anchor-link>

**Step 2.** Choose Application Method

Apply Online

Paper Application



<https://bentonbri.com/application-english/>

**Step 3.** Fill Out Application (Don't Forget Financials!)

- There are about 40 questions
- Know your UBI and EIN
- Some short responses needed. You do not need to write a long narrative

**Step 2.** Submit!

# Questions?

**Business Resource Navigator:**

Email [info@tricityregionalchamber.com](mailto:info@tricityregionalchamber.com)

or call the Tri-City Regional Chamber of

Commerce at [509-736-0510](tel:509-736-0510).