

# VELOCITY

## Direct Grant FAQ's

### **1 Can I use my Direct Grant dollars to pay for certifications?**

Yes, a small business that desires to use its direct grant allocation to send employees to receive a specific industry certification would be allowed to use grant funds.

- Travel expenses related to getting to/from the training would also be allowable. Businesses and/or Hubs should be able to substantiate that the certification/training/travel is necessary, is reasonable, and drives revenue growth and business stabilization.

- The Program Guidelines state, "Grant funding must support business operations or growth needs as identified by the Hub. Eligible expenses include equipment, inventory, software, hardware, highly specialized consulting services, or other services".

### **2 Can I use funds for construction projects?**

No, Construction is not permitted.

### **3 Can funds be used to pay my staff or myself?**

No, payroll is not an eligible expense.

### **4 What is the per-unit amount I can spend for capital expenses?**

Capital expenses may not exceed \$4,999 on a per-unit basis.

### **5 What are examples of eligible development/developer costs?**

Examples include hiring software developers, AI, etc., where the company may outsource this service. This is eligible.

### **6 Are Marketing expenses an eligible cost?**

Yes, this is eligible.

### **7 Are hardware and software costs eligible?**

Yes, this is eligible.

### **8 Is a small business that has previously received a Business Accelerator Fund grant through SmartZone eligible for a direct grant?**

Yes. An eligible small business would not be excluded from receiving a SBSH direct grant if they previously received a BAF grant.