

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2021

Ms. Tami Perriello
SBA Administrator (Acting)
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Ms. Perriello,

As you are aware, small businesses have been especially burdened by the coronavirus pandemic. Many have temporarily closed their doors in order to keep the public safe. Some small businesses, such as live venues and live performing arts organization operators, have not been able to develop alternative business models because of necessary health restrictions on indoor activities. That is why Congress authorized the Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO) program in the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act which became law December 27, 2020.

As you know, the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act established a \$15 billion grant program to support shuttered live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museum operators, motion picture theatre operators, or talent representatives that have experienced significant revenue losses of at least 25 percent. The grants can be used for expenses such as payroll costs, rent, utilities, and personal protective equipment and will initially go to the persons or entities with the most need.

We understand that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has been working tirelessly to get critical programs including SVO up and running amidst the transition to the Biden Administration. We are grateful for your efforts to do so quickly. However, we are concerned that three months after this program was authorized the application process and guidance have not yet been released. We urge you to prioritize implementation of the SVO program and all small business relief authorized by the FY2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act. As you know, it is vitally important that SBA provides guidance as quickly as possible, to ensure our hardest hit businesses can stay afloat through the pandemic.

As we mark a year since the coronavirus pandemic shut down small businesses, we trust that SBA will continue your work to ensure these closures remain temporary and not permanent by releasing SVO and other critical SBA guidance quickly.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress