

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman  
Administrator, Small Business Administration  
409 3rd Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

The Save Our Stages Act, now the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program, was created to prevent widespread closures of venues that have been devastated by the loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As supporters of the SVOG program, we urge you to take immediate action to ensure that the relief reaches eligible applicants without further delay.

With each passing day, more independent businesses are forced to shutter permanently or file for bankruptcy. Landlords and banks are no longer permitting deferrals and are pressing for immediate payment of past due accounts; businesses are receiving eviction notices; mom-and-pop businesses are being forced to sell.

It has been nearly six months since Congress passed the Save our Stages Act, nearly two months since the second launch of the program, and 51 days since the Small Business Administration (SBA) began receiving applications. We urge you to immediately take steps to ensure the funds are distributed to qualified applicants.

The SVOG program is unique, with necessary restrictions built in to ensure taxpayer funding goes only to eligible applicants in need. Under the terms of the law, the SVOG program requires the award of funding to eligible applicants who meet the simple requirements of the program. In this context, the insistence on strict compliance with competitive grant rules has created unnecessary delays in funding. Similarly, restrictions that SBA has placed on communication with grant applicants are unnecessary and have prevented the agency from providing administrative support to individual applicants that could have streamlined the application review process. Bureaucratic process cannot stand in the way of getting these desperately needed funds out the door.

Further delays are unacceptable and would have irreversible consequences for these industries. In an effort to keep our constituents informed and ensure our small businesses receive the support they were promised, we respectfully request you provide us with the following information:

1. The number SVOG awards that have been approved;
2. The number of SVOG grants that have been disbursed to recipients;
3. The amount of SVOG funding that has been disbursed;
4. The number of applications with holds;
5. The number of first-priority applicants that have received an award notice;

6. What SBA is doing to update small business owners on the status of their applications;
7. What SBA is doing to ensure applicants are not incorrectly associated with similar-named individuals and entities on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE);
8. What SBA is doing to correct false DNP designation notices sent to thousands of applicants;
9. SBA's justification for breaking grant awards, regardless of size, into multiple disbursements; and
10. SBA's timeline for subsequent disbursements and what grantees need to do to receive them.

Sincerely,

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
John Cornyn  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Cassidy  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Schumer  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
John Thune  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
James Risch  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Portman  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Maggie Hassan  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Daines  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
John Boozman  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Marshall  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitt Romney  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Braun  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Cruz  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dick Durbin  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Casey Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Warner  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Markey  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Menendez  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Peters  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Patty Murray  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Angus King Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Tester  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Rosen  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Manchin  
United States Senator

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Coons  
United States Senator