

June 16, 2021

Isabel Guzman
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW, Suite 7900
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman,

I write today urging the Small Business Administration (SBA) to expedite processing applications for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program and rapidly send out funds to approved applicants. These grants are needed to provide venues the working capital necessary to cover reopening costs after over a year of closures to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

The opaque rollout of the SVOG has left venues in my community frustrated and without a clear timeline on the processing of their applications. As of June 14th, only 561 of the over 15,000 applications have been reviewed¹. This follows two months of delays, starting with the website portal crash on April 8th that postponed the program opening to April 28th. While the SBA recently announced that it would process 10,000 applications by July 4, this alarmingly slow rate of review puts that goal into serious jeopardy.

Venues are struggling to make ends meet and considering closing their venue permanently because they lack the resources. These businesses shape our communities, support our local economies, and help make the Valley what it is. These funds are needed now more than ever. If the slow pace of the SVOG program continues, these venues that the program was designed to help may no longer be around to receive it.

I urge that to SBA expedite the application review process and distribute funds swiftly so that venue operators in my community can keep their businesses afloat. I look forward to a prompt response and timely action.

Sincerely,



Josh Harder
Member of Congress

¹ *Shuttered Venue Operator Grant Stakeholder Briefing*. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance. June 14, 2021