

Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

Are you a live venue operator, performing arts operator, museum/zoo, theatrical producer, or other similar venue? Then you may qualify for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program. This program includes over \$16 billion in grants to shuttered venues, to be administered by the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Disaster Assistance.

Eligible applicants may qualify for grants equal to 45% of their gross earned revenue, with the maximum amount available for a single grant award of \$10 million. \$2 billion is reserved for eligible applications with up to 50 full-time employees. For more details, check out the SBA website at

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant>

Employer Sick Leave Credits

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), certain businesses are eligible to claim refundable tax credits that reimburse them for the cost of providing paid sick and family leave to their employees due to COVID-19. This includes leave taken by employees to receive or recover from COVID-19 vaccinations.

Below are some facts relating to this credit:

Eligible employees - businesses with less than 500 employees.

Eligible amounts to claim - for wages paid for leave taken by employees who are not able to work or telework due to reasons related to COVID-19, including leave taken to receive COVID-19 vaccinations or to recover from any injury, disability, illness or condition related to the vaccinations.

Amount of credit - equal to the sick leave wages paid for COVID-19 related reasons for up to two weeks (80 hours), limited to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate, at 100% of the employee's regular rate of pay.

Period of availability - sick and family leave paid from April 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021

How claimed – Form 941, or other quarterly federal employment tax return.

Further information –

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/american-rescue-plan-tax-credits-available-to-small-employers-to-provide-paid-leave-to-employees-receiving-covid-19-vaccines-new-fact-sheet-outlines-details>

Potential New GASB

Be on the lookout for a proposed new GASB – there are potential changes coming which would affect the accounting for compensated absences (i.e. sick or vacation days). The proposal would supersede the current standards and would require governmental entities to recognize a liability for compensated absences if

(1) the absence accumulates,

(2) the absence is attributable to services rendered, and

(3) the absence is more likely than not to be either paid or settled through other means.

This proposal includes guidance on how to calculate the liability, which would be a result of multiplying accumulated leave by an employee's pay rate at the financial reporting date.

Comments on this proposal are due by June 4, 2021. **If approved**, the standard would go into effect for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2022, with early application allowed. We will keep you posted should these proposed changes go into effect.

https://www.gasb.org/jsp/GASB/Document_C/DocumentPage?cid=1176176227626&acceptedDisclaimer=true