



# Tennessee's Business Relief Programs (TBRP & SERG)

September 2021

# Relief Programs in Tennessee

- Tennessee Business Relief Program
- Supplemental Employer Recovery Program (SERG)
- Coronavirus Agricultural and Forestry Business Fund
- Local Government Assistance
- Tennessee Community Cares Program (Non-profit Assistance)
- Tennessee Tourism CARES Marketing Program
- COVID-19 Hospital Staffing Assistance Program



# Tennessee Business Relief Program (TBRP)

# Tennessee Business Relief Program

- Originally announced by Governor Lee on June 2, 2020, the Tennessee Business Relief Program was designed to provide relief payments to small businesses that were directly impacted by mandatory closures or that suffered a substantial reduction in taxable sales due to COVID-19
- Unlike many other relief programs, there was no application process or first come, first served approach
- The department proactively identified eligible businesses based on North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and reported sales
- Business were required to certify their industry and sales information in order to receive a relief payment

# Tennessee Business Relief Program (cont.)

- Payment amounts were based on a business' total gross sales and ranged between \$2,500 and \$30,000 per business
- \$10 million annual gross sales cap
- Approximately 70% of payments were issued to businesses with annual gross sales of \$500,000 or less
- More than 100 eligible industries

# Tennessee Business Relief Program (cont.)

- The deadline for businesses to certify was September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Payments were issued to approximately 28,000 businesses
- \$200 + million in total payments
- Businesses received payments in all 95 TN counties



**Supplemental Employer  
Recovery Grant (SERG)  
Program**

# SERG Overview

- Announced by Governor Lee on October 7th, 2020, SERG was an additional small business relief program designed to reimburse eligible business owners and non-profits for direct expenses **OR** business interruption costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Open to most industries. Application based. Funds were distributed on a first come, first served basis
- Awards were originally capped at \$30,000. However, businesses located in low to moderate income (“LMI”) census tracts, Opportunity zones, or Promise zones received an additional \$500 added to the maximum allowable expenses



# Payments

- More than **3,200** individual businesses received SERG payments
- Nearly **800** of these were diversity businesses enterprises
- Approximately **\$109 million** in total payments