



The Saving Our Street (SOS) Act

Small neighborhood businesses are the heart and soul of communities across the country. Many have existed for generations and have become a cornerstone of local residents' daily lives. The novel coronavirus pandemic has caused a public health and economic crisis that threatens the future of local businesses across the country.

Congress passed the *CARES Act* to help stabilize the economy and preserve jobs by providing assistance to businesses. Unfortunately, the funding ran out before it reached those who needed it most. Small neighborhood businesses across the country were left to fend for themselves. From hair salons and barbershops to bodegas and food trucks, many small business owners are in dire need of immediate financial assistance. Providing federal emergency assistance to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic is more important than ever.

The *Saving Our Street (SOS) Act* introduced by Senator Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) will ensure vital support is provided directly to America's small businesses. The *SOS Act*:

- **Establishes a Microbusiness Assistance Fund of \$124.5 billion to provide up to \$250,000 directly to small "micro" businesses**
 - Targeted to "micro" businesses with fewer than 10 employees
 - Businesses with at least half of their employees from the community and within a low-income community may have up to 20 employees
- **Will help neighborhood businesses put people back to work**
 - Can be used for essentials like payroll, rent, utilities, insurance, and personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Employers must maintain prior levels of health benefits for employees
 - Essential businesses may use funding to provide hazard pay for employees
- **Reserved for those who truly need help**
 - Businesses earning more than \$1 million in revenue are prohibited from receiving grants
 - Nonprofits with less than \$500,000 in gross receipts and fewer than 10 employees
 - Excludes publicly traded and hedge fund-owned businesses
 - Recipient businesses must provide financial statements to demonstrate true need
 - Funds cannot be used to pay salaries over \$100,000
- **75% of the funding goes to historically underrepresented businesses, including minority-owned businesses**
 - \$300 million to nonprofit and community organizations assisting small business owners
 - \$50 million for minority business centers to provide technical assistance and online training
 - \$50 million for centers supporting small and women owned businesses
- **Requires a report detailing the ethnicity, race, industry, geographical demographics, and sex of applicants for grants**