

Company Name: Vault Shapewear

Focus: Shapewear for women based on personalized recommendations

Location: Cleveland, Ohio

Focus: Grants for women, Black and veteran-owned small businesses

Website: Vaultshapewear.com

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Famous Amos Ingredients for Success Grant Application:** Ingredients for Success (IFS) Entrepreneurs Initiative is a national grant competition hosted by Famous Amos. The competition is exclusive to U.S. Black-owned small businesses and start-ups. Each year, or cycle, awards three Black-owned business owners with \$50,000 capital grant and a suite of entrepreneurial tools, mentorship, and resources from the program's community partner, the National Black Chamber of Commerce. To be eligible for the Ingredients for Success Entrepreneurs Initiative, businesses must be: (1) At minimum 90% Black-owned, (2) In business for five years or less as of May 17, 2023, (3) Headquartered in the United States (excluding Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other Commonwealths, Territories, and Possessions). Businesses must be owned by owners at least 21-years-old at time of application.

Funding Range: \$50,000 grants

Submission Dates: The application period ends on June 25, 2023.

Website to Apply:

<https://famousamos.nationalbcc.org/apply#:~:text=Ingredients%20for%20Success%20prizes%20include,in%20grant%20recipients%27%20local%20markets>.

- **Fearless Strivers Grant Contest:** Fearless Fund is deepening its commitment to the Black women-owned business community with the launch of the contest. With Mastercard prizing, they'll be awarding four lucky small businesses across the country with \$20,000 grants, digital tools to help them grow their business online, and mentorship so they can continue to bolster their business. Open to black women who are legal U.S. residents (including DC), 18+ and the principal owner of a U.S.-based small business.

Funding Range: \$20,000

Submission Dates: Applications close on August 31, 2023.

Website to Apply: <https://www.fearless.fund/strivers-grant-contest>

- **The Amber Grant:** The Amber Grant is the best small business grant for women-owned startups. Businesses should be at least 50% women-owned for consideration. The business must be based in either the U.S. or Canada. And the applicant must be a minimum of 18 years old. The Amber Grant is awarded monthly to women-owned startups in the US and Canada with an additional grant awarded to one of the 12 winners annually. Named after a young woman named Amber who died before being able to fulfill her entrepreneurial dreams, the Amber Grant awards over \$30,000 each month to different grant winners including two \$10,000 Amber Grant recipients. At the end of the year, one of the 12 monthly qualification winners wins another grant for \$25,000.

Funding Range: \$10,000-\$25,000

Submission Dates: The submission deadline is on the last day of every month; the winner is announced during the first week of the following month. Has a *\$15 application fee*.

Website to Apply: <https://ambergrantsforwomen.com/get-an-amber-grant/>

- **Cartier Women's Initiative – Regional Award & The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award:** The Cartier Women's Initiative Awards is one of the largest and most prestigious

women-owned business grants, but the competition is steep. Cartier offers several different grants for women-owned businesses: Currently both their Regional Awards and The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award are open for submissions. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award was created to encourage entrepreneurial solutions designed to close gaps of access, outcome or opportunity for communities that have been underrepresented or underserved. While the Cartier Women's Initiative's other regional and thematic awards focus on supporting women, this pilot award is open to all genders. Entrepreneurs across all sectors and geographies are encouraged to apply.

Funding Range: \$30,000 - \$100,000

Submission Dates: Applications are open between May 10, 2023 and June 30, 2023 (this applies to both the Regional Awards and The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award).

Website to Apply: <https://www.cartierwomensinitiative.com/diversity-equity-inclusion-award>

- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce – America's Top Small Business:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize the very best in American small business. The America's Top Small Business Awards (formerly Dream Big Awards) will honor the achievements of small businesses and highlight their contributions to America's economic growth. To be eligible to apply for the America's Top Small Business Awards, an applicant must: Be a legal resident of the United States; Be a for-profit business operating for at least one (1) year primarily within the United States; Have fewer than 250 employees or gross revenues of less than \$20 million for both 2021 and 2022; Agree to all of the Award Rules, including potentially attending award ceremony.

Funding Range: The winner of America's Top Small Business 2023 will receive national recognition and a \$25,000 cash prize.

Submission Dates: July 7, 2023 is the application deadline.

Website to Apply: <https://www.uschamber.com/co/good-company/americas-top-small-business>

- **SoGal Foundation Black Founder Startup Grant:** The SoGal Foundation has teamed up with businesses such as Winky Lux and Bluemercury to launch the Black Founder Startup Grant. This program is designed to provide Black women and Black nonbinary entrepreneurs with grants to start or further their businesses. This program provides grants of \$5,000 and \$10,000 to select entrants. Additionally, winners also receive lifetime access to the SoGal Foundation and SoGal Ventures teams. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and awards are given at the end of each month.

Funding Range: \$5,000-\$10,000

Submission Dates: This is a rolling grant program with grants awarded at the end of each month.

Website to Apply: <https://www.iamsogal.com/black-founder-startup-grant/>

- **PBZ Operational Grant:** The PBZ Grant is awarded in amounts ranging from \$2,500-\$5,000 and is designed to help business owners offset the cost of operational expenses such as:

- 1) Business filings (license, incorporations etc.)
- 2) Funds towards deposit of rent or other down payment
- 3) Subscriptions for service (zoom, GoDaddy, legal zoom)
- 4) Development of a website or app

PBZ's target audience is entrepreneurs who have informal businesses. These businesses could be run from your home, considered a side hustle, are done in conjunction with a full-time job etc. These entrepreneurs are BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) with a focus on women of color. These entrepreneurs currently reside in underserved areas such as lower wealth urban and rural areas. Their lives could be affected by incarceration, violence, or other types of strife.

Funding Range: \$2,500-\$5,000

Submission Dates: Submissions accepted on an ongoing basis. They review grants 2-3 times a year.

Website to Apply: <https://www.poweredbyzerret.org/program-applications>

- **Galaxy of Stars:** Apply for a \$3,750 grant for your minority or woman-owned business. This grant opportunity is brought to you by Hidden Star, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Any and all women small business owners are encouraged to apply. Applying for this grant will also get you one free entry to win a 2023 Mercedes Benz E-Class.

Funding Range: \$3,750

Submission Dates: The deadline to apply is June 30th, 2023.

Website to Apply: https://galaxyofstars.org/galaxy-grants/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIhJ-alfPP6gIVMwPnCh29ZwRWEAAAYAiAAEgIdY_D_BwE

- **The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA):** The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) offers the best small business grant for minority-owned startups. The MBDA provides an exhaustive list of resources for minority-owned startups to find and secure grants as well as other funding opportunities. The steps to apply for an MBDA Grant is to first register your business to apply for an MBDA Grant and obtain a DUNS number, and register with SAM. Only then will you have access to the grant announcements. They also require you to attend a pre-application teleconference to learn more about the grant and the requirements. MBDA works collaboratively with the business owners and provides a lot of guidance along the way.

Funding Range: Not specified.

Submission Dates: N/A

Website to Apply: <https://www.mbda.gov/grants>

- **NASE Growth Grants** (for self-employed individuals): If you're a NASE member, you could receive up to \$4,000 for your small business through the NASE Growth Grants program. Grants can be used for marketing, advertising, hiring employees, expanding facilities and other specific business needs. *You will need to become a NASE member and pay a membership fee prior to applying for this grant.*

Funding Range: \$4,000

Submission Dates: No application deadline.

Website to Become a Member and Apply: <https://www.nase.org/become-a-member/member-benefits/business-resources/growth-grants>

- **The TRANSFORM Business Grant:** The grant supports entrepreneurs in systemically oppressed groups. Each grantee receives \$1,000 to invest in their business or business idea. Grantees also participate in a customized, year-long business strategy and development program.

Funding Range: \$1,000

Submission Dates: Applications may be submitted between February 20th-March 20th for March review and July 20th-August 20th for August review.

Website to Apply: <https://www.transformgrant.org/the-grant/>

- **PublishHER:** Publish Her is dedicated to providing resources to female-identifying business owners and authors. Since 2018, more than \$250,000 in grants and services have been awarded to women. In March, Publish Her also announced its Business Impact Grant (BIG) program for women of color whose businesses are making a difference in the lives of others and the world.

Funding Range: \$20,000

Submission Dates: The applications for the grant program for women business owners will be accepted between June 1-August 31, 2023.

Website to Apply: <https://publishherpress.com/grants-for-women-business-owners/>

- **Skip Grant Program:** The Skip Grant Program gives out monthly \$1,000-\$5,000 grants to entrepreneurs and small businesses. *You will have to register on their portal and pay a subscription fee (monthly or annual) to access this grant application.*
Funding Range: \$1,000-\$5,000
Submission Dates: No deadline
Website to Apply: <https://helloskip.com/en/funding/5k>
- **The Freed Fellowship:** Every month, The Freed Fellowship gives one \$500 grant to an underrepresented founder in the US to invest in their existing business. No strings attached. No equity required. Grant recipients are also eligible to receive an additional end-of-year grant of \$2,500.
Funding Range: \$500-\$2,500
Submission Dates: No deadline. Applications accepted each month
Website to Apply: <https://www.freedfellowship.com/grant1>
- **The HerRise Micro-Grant:** The HerRise Micro-Grant provides financial assistance, with the help of their corporate sponsors and donors, to women of color creating innovative solutions that impact their community and that are often unable to secure funding for their small business. Each month a \$1,000 micro-grant will be awarded to a small business owned by women of color. Small business grants are useful for financing a particular small business need. Past recipients used their growth grants for computers, equipment, marketing materials, software purchase, website creation and more.
Funding Range: \$1,000
Submission Dates: Applications accepted each month.
Website to Apply: <https://www.hersuitespot.com/herrise/>
- **Giving Joy:** You can use the Giving Joy grant to start a new business, or expand your existing business. You can also use the grant to start or expand a nonprofit, non-governmental organization (NGO), charity, or propose a specific activity or project you would like to implement. Open for women ages 18 and up with no geographical limitations. You can propose activities in any field, trade, occupation, or craft. However, your business/organization/idea must focus on women, girls and/or families.
Funding Range: \$250-\$500
Submission Dates: June 1 – September 30, 2023
Website to Apply: <https://givingjoygrants.org/grant-application>
- **Verizon Small Business Digital Ready (not a direct grant application and more of an accelerator program):** Verizon is helping small businesses succeed by offering key resources like free online courses, expert coaching, peer networking and grant opportunities. You will need to register on their website (and complete some of their free online courses) in order to access the grant opportunities they are offering.
Funding Range: \$10,000
Submission Dates: N/A
Website to Apply: <https://www.verizon.com/about/responsibility/digital-inclusion/small-business-training>
- **Cleveland Municipal Small Business Initiative (Cleveland-focused):** The Cleveland Municipal Small Business Initiative is offered by the US Small Business Administration (SBA) and Cuyahoga County. The project you're using the SBA loan to fund must create at least one permanent full-time job for every \$35,000 funded by the city of Cleveland.

Partnering with U.S. Small Business Administration and Cuyahoga County, this performance grant allows businesses to reduce their equity in a SBA funded project from the required 25% to 10%. The City provides a grant of 15% (of total project costs) which is funded half by the City and half by the County. The goal of this grant is to leverage financing to benefit small businesses in the creation of jobs and opportunities in the City of Cleveland. Proceeds can be used for property acquisition, new construction or renovation, acquisition of equipment, furniture and fixtures. Working capital (inventory, payroll, utility payments) is not an eligible use.

Funding Range: The recoverable grant awarded is up to 15% of total project costs but not greater than \$50,000.

Submission Dates: No dates

Website to Apply: <https://makeitincleveland.org/incentives/municipal-small-business-initiative>

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES WHOSE DEADLINES HAVE PASSED

- **Ohio Based Small Business Grants (Ohio-focused):** This website has information on loan and grant programs that are available for small businesses in Ohio. There are currently a few loan programs that are open but no grant programs available. I would recommend checking this website every few weeks to see if new opportunities open up.

Funding Range: Varies depending on grant.

Submission Dates: Currently, grant applications are not available.

Website to Apply: <https://businesshelp.ohio.gov>

- **Third Love – TL Effect:** The TL Effect is an in-house mentorship program geared towards women-of-color entrepreneurs looking to take their consumer-focused early-stage start-up* to the next level. ThirdLove created this 3-month program as a launching pad for building brand awareness and elevating start-ups through grant access, office space, and invaluable mentorship and fundraising advice from their own DTC thought-leaders. The program includes a \$20,000 cash grant.

Funding Range: \$20,000

Submission Dates: Applications for the 6th cohort will open in 2024.

Website to Apply: <https://blog.thirdlove.com/the-tl-effect/>

- **The FedEx Small Business Grant Contest:** This grant offers the best corporate small business grant for startup growth. FedEx offers one of the best-known small business grants with cash prizes and FedEx services awarded to the winners. Typically, any eligible *for-profit* small business with a FedEx 9-digit shipping account number that has been in continuous operation selling a product in market for at least six (6) months by the time the contest starts, has fewer than 99 employees, and has a shipping need for their business is eligible to enter the contest.

Funding Range: \$30,000

Submission Dates: Applications have closed in early 2023. Check back again later this year.

Website to Apply: <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/small-business/grant-contest.html>

- **Fast Break for Small Businesses:** LegalZoom, the NBA, WNBA, and NBA G League are committed to helping small business owners everywhere, especially those who face obstacles because of who they are, who they love, or how they identify. \$10,000 grants and \$500 in LegalZoom services to 50 small businesses. Eligible small businesses must: Be based in the United States; must be a Black-owned business; have been in business for at least 6 months [since August 1, 2022] and currently in operation; have an annual revenue of less than \$1 million; have a business bank account.

Funding Range: \$10,000 grants and a free LegalZoom product of their choosing, valued at up to \$500, to 50 small businesses.

Submission Dates: Applications closed in early 2023. Check back again later this year.

Website to Apply:

https://aofund.org/program/fastbreak/?utm_campaign=fastbreak&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter

OTHER SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

- **The Second Service Foundation – The Military Entrepreneur Challenge:** The Second Service Foundation, formerly the StreetShares Foundation, presents the Military Entrepreneur Challenge in partnership with the Samuel Adams Brewing the American Dream program. The Second Service Foundation is committed to creating access to capital opportunities for military veteran and military spouses entrepreneurs who are looking to start or grow a business venture. This award is designed to boost small business owners who are creating a social impact in their community. The three applicants selected by the panel of judges will pitch live at the Second Service Foundation entrepreneurship coaching event. A live audience vote will determine the recipients of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The non-profit or business entity will also be evaluated on its positive social, community, educational, military-transition, veterans' employment, health & wellness, or veterans' mental health/spiritual impact on the American military and veteran community in addition to or in conjunction with the business or nonprofit functions.

Funding Range: \$4,000-\$15,000

Submission Dates: The applications will open later in 2023.

Website to Apply: <https://secondservicefoundation.org/mec/>

- **Hivers and Strivers (Not a grant – Angel Investment for Veteran-Owned Businesses):** Hivers and Strivers is an [angel investment group](#) that invests in veteran-owned and -led businesses. The organization offers early-round investment funds through its Venture Capital for Veterans program. Funding opportunities range from \$250,000 to \$1 million. The program focuses on veteran-led, early-stage companies with significant growth potential. However, businesses that are reliant on government contracts are not eligible for funding.

Funding Range: \$250,000 to \$1 million

Submission Dates: No deadline

Website to Apply: <https://hiversandstrivers.com/pitch-us-overview/>

- **Warrior Rising Small Business Grants:** The nonprofit program, founded in Utah in 2015, provides both business grants and mentorship to eligible veteran entrepreneurs. Businesses can [apply online](#) to become a “vetpreneur” in the Warrior Rising program. If the organization accepts your application, you’ll receive an onboarding email. From there you can schedule a phone call that will walk you through what to expect during the four-step business development program, including business training through Warrior Academy, one-on-one mentoring, funding opportunities and a place in the Warrior Community.

Funding Range: Not specified.

Submission Dates: No deadline

Website to Apply: <https://www.warriorrising.org/apply/>

Recommendations:

Hi,

Here are the grants that I have identified for your businesses. I included the grants that are currently open as well as ones that will open later in the year, and some funding opportunities specifically for veterans. Please keep checking the websites for the grants of your choice periodically so you can catch the application windows when they become available.

I would recommend that you apply for any of the following grants/programs now since the application windows are open:

- 1) Famous Amos Ingredients for Success Grant Application
- 2) Fearless Strivers Grant Contest
- 3) The Amber Grant
- 4) PBZ Operational Grant
- 5) SoGal Foundation Black Founder Startup Grant
- 6) Cartier Women's Initiative – The Regional Award or The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award
- 7) Galaxy of Stars
- 8) Verizon Small Business Digital Ready
- 9) Hivers and Strivers (for veterans)

Please let me know if you would like to book me to prepare any of these applications.

Thank you! ☺
Ruya