



Sole Trader Cash Grant

October 2021

Sole Trader Cash Grants

Temporary financial support for sole traders

Objective

With the ongoing community transmission of COVID-19 in New Zealand, and the resulting extended border closure, the Cook Islands Government is providing another cash grant to all registered sole traders that are affected by the border being closed, to better enable sole traders to keep operating during this time and improve their chances of getting back on their feet afterwards.

About the sole trader cash grant

The sole trader cash grant was operated as a cash payment only to each business that qualifies in a quarter, having been extended from a one-off payment. As the economic effects of the border closure are impacting sole traders again, reinstatement will be continuously reviewed as long as the border is closed.

The cash payment of \$1,000 for October 2021 represents a closure of one month, rather than three months (as previously).

The cash scheme will be administered by the Revenue Management Division. Payments to eligible businesses will be made as soon as processed, after 1 October 2021.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for this measure:

- Your business must be structured as a sole trader.
- Your business must have been operating prior to 31 July 2021 and you must be able to provide evidence of this.
- Your business must be registered with the Revenue Management Division (Revenue Management) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management and CINSF and operating in the Cook Islands.



- You must be present in the Cook Islands.
- If your business received the sole trader cash grant for September 2021, you may apply for the October sole trader grant.
- If you have not received a sole trader grant previously, your business is now able to access the Sole Trader Grant, as long as you meet the loss in revenue requirement for October. Your business must be registered with RMD and CINSF in order to access this support by 16 September 2021. VAT returns must be submitted monthly prior to payment where relevant.
- Your business must have paid its PAYE payments for the months of June to September, prior to receiving the sole trader cash grant, where relevant.
- Your business must have paid its CINSF employer and employee contributions prior to receiving the sole trader cash grant, where relevant.
- Your business must have suffered a 30% loss of income in September 2021 when compared to September 2019. If your business was not operating in September 2019, this comparison will be made with the last full calendar month your business was operating and the border was open (likely July 2021).
- The income from your sole trader business must be your primary source of income.
- You must be actively working in your business. For example continuing to sell goods or doing work to promote your business.

Income tax and VAT will not be deducted from the sole trader grant, nor will CINSF contributions. Any sole trader business grant received as part of the ERP Phase I measures does not need to be included in your income tax return, any sole trader business grants received as part of the ERP Phase II, Phase III or Reinstatement measures must be included in your income tax return.

How to apply

The application process for this measure is as follows:

- The sole trader must login to their CINSF account from 1 October 2021 and apply for the cash grant online, providing all necessary information as instructed.
- Eligibility will be assessed by Revenue Management.
- Once verified, payment will be made directly to the nominated account.
- All Sole Trader Grant applications must be submitted by 31 October 2021. Applications will not be available after this date.

For any queries about this measure please call RMD on 29365 or email tax.info@cookislands.gov.ck.

For further information, contact

Pim Borren, Director
Economic Planning Division
Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
PO Box 120, Avarua, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Telephone: +682 29511 ext. 7208

Email: MFEM.Economics@cookislands.gov.ck

Website: www.mfem.gov.ck

Disclaimer

While all care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this publication is true and correct at the time of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information. The Government of the Cook Islands gives no warranty of assurance and makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication, or that it is suitable for your intended use. You should not rely upon information in this publication for the purpose of making any serious, business or investment decisions without obtaining independent and/or professional advice in relation to your particular situation. The Government of the Cook Islands disclaims any liability or responsibility or duty of care towards any persons for loss or damage caused by any use of reliance on the information contained in this publication.