



NEWS RELEASE

PayPal Announces Additional \$5 Million Grant Program for Black-Owned Businesses as COVID-19 Crisis Continues

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Grants extend PayPal's \$530 million commitment made to support and empower Black-owned businesses, strengthen minority communities and fight economic inequality

SAN JOSE, Calif., Dec. 18, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- PayPal Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: PYPL) today announced an additional \$5 million grant program that will further the company's support for Black-owned businesses in the U.S., which have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new grant program is an extension of the \$10 million PayPal Empowerment Grant program for Black-owned businesses that PayPal announced in June as part of the company's **\$530 million commitment** to support Black-owned businesses, strengthen minority communities and fight economic inequality.

"When we made our initial commitment, we understood that decisive action was needed to make progress towards economic equality and closing the racial wealth gap that has persisted for far too long in this country," said Dan Schulman, president and CEO, PayPal. "As we witnessed the outsized and devastating impact of COVID-19 on Black businesses and communities, we knew we had to do our part to increase their opportunity to survive and thrive. With cases of COVID-19 surging and the timing of a stimulus uncertain, we are bolstering this support, which is critical to sustaining these businesses and building a path to inclusive recovery."

In August, PayPal, in partnership with the **Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO)**, awarded \$10 million in grants to 1,167 Black-owned businesses across the country to help them stabilize and reopen. These businesses will have the opportunity to receive additional grant funding, along with approximately 250 additional Black-owned businesses that qualified for funding.

The new grant program is coming at a time when small businesses are struggling to stay afloat. A recent **study** found that close to 40% of Black small business owners who received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans have already been forced to lay off employees or cut wages due to their PPP loans being exhausted.

"Small businesses continue to face extreme hardship and uncertainty during this time, and PayPal is doubling down on its support for those businesses that are most vulnerable," said Connie Evans, president and CEO, AEO. "We are proud to remain their partner in this important work creating access to both capital and resources that will help Black-owned businesses navigate this crisis and support their long-term success."

In addition to the grant, PayPal and AEO have partnered with Deloitte, Facebook, Guidehouse, Mastercard and Qualtrics to offer all awardees capacity-building programming that features business education webinars, coaching and network building opportunities designed to give business owners the tools they need to not only sustain, but grow their business.

Since June, PayPal has continued to fulfill its **\$530 million commitment** that was designed to provide immediate assistance to Black-owned businesses, while setting the foundation for sustained engagement and progress towards economic equality and social justice. Most recently, PayPal **invested \$50 million** in the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Black Economic Development Fund. It is the largest single investment in the fund designed to support Black-led banks, institutions and businesses and expand economic opportunity in the communities they serve. Other actions include:

- Supporting Black-Owned Businesses: PayPal awarded **\$5 million in grants to 20 nonprofit community partners** to support their work sustaining Black-owned businesses across the U.S. in their recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Investing in Community Banks and Credit Unions: PayPal deposited **\$50 million in Optus Bank**, a Black-owned bank based in South Carolina dedicated to providing equal access to capital and financial services for minority communities.
- Investing in Minority-Focused Investment Funds: PayPal is investing **\$50 million in eight early-stage, Black and Latinx-led venture capital funds** to bring more equity to the fundraising process.

About PayPal

PayPal has remained at the forefront of the digital payment revolution for more than 20 years. By leveraging technology to make financial services and commerce more convenient, affordable, and secure, the PayPal platform is empowering more than 350 million consumer and merchants in more than 200 markets to join and thrive in the global economy. For more information, visit [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com).

About Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO)

AEO is the leading voice of innovation for microbusiness and microfinance. We create economic opportunity for underserved entrepreneurs throughout the United States. We engineer transformational change through Research, Incubation, Convening & Advocacy to foster a robust and inclusive marketplace. For more information, visit aeoworks.org.

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