

“Export Washington”

Export Voucher Program Guidelines

As Administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce

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Section I – General Information

A. Program Overview

Export Washington is a program developed by the State of Washington Department of Commerce (Commerce) to increase the number of small business concerns (SBC) which export, as well as to increase the value of goods and services currently being exported by SBCs. The program is funded in part through the U.S. Small Business Administration’s State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program.

The Export Voucher program will be used to reimburse eligible SBCs for specific export related expenses. Export Voucher awards will be based on funds available, the number of applications submitted, and the strength and completeness of the applications; late, weak or incomplete applications are ineligible for reimbursement.

B. Eligible Events and Activities

The Export Voucher program is designed to provide flexibility and encourage innovative use of funds to meet the specific export needs of Washington companies. Events/activities which are eligible and may qualify include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Services of the U.S. Commercial Service	• International Certifications
• Federal/State Export Training	• Translation Services:
• Overseas Trade Shows	○ Website
• Foreign Market Sales Trips	○ Marketing Materials
• Export Compliance Audits	• Overseas Trade Missions
• International Credit Reports	• Other (pre-approval required)
• Design of International Marketing or Products Campaign	

C. Participant Eligibility

Qualifying Washington companies must:

- Be registered to do business in Washington State.
- Have a Federal Identification Number tied to a Washington address.
- Be in good standing with the Washington State Department of Revenue.
- Be a small business concern (SBC) as defined by the SBA small business concern criteria (<http://www.sba.gov/content/what-sbas-definition-small-business-concern>) and adhere to the following additional program criteria:
 - (a) has been in business for not less than the 1-year period ending on the date on which the Export Voucher is provided;
 - (b) is operating profitably, based on operations in the United States;
 - (c) demonstrates understanding of the costs associated with exporting and doing business with foreign purchasers, including the costs of freight forwarding, customs brokers, packing and shipping;
 - (d) has in effect a strategic plan for exporting; and,
 - (e) must demonstrate export readiness.
- Agree to provide information on export sales data resulting from the Export Voucher funding, and respond to all subsequent Commerce surveys on a timely basis.

D. Funding Criteria

The major Export Voucher funding criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- SBC's must identify an eligible event/activity for a new-to-market or new-to-export company initiative which promotes exports.
- SBCs are limited to one Export Voucher per program year (September 30, 2011 to September 29, 2012); Export Vouchers are non-transferable and may only be used for one event/activity.
- An Export Voucher may be used to cover participation costs for up to two individuals if the activity/event is a trade show or mission targeted by Commerce. Otherwise the Export Voucher may only be used to cover participation costs of one individual.

- Export Voucher reimbursement is limited to 75% of paid eligible expenses, not to exceed \$5000. SBC's will be required to provide a minimum 25% cash match, or up to \$1250 for a full \$5000 Export Voucher. The 25% company cash match may not come from any other federal government source.
- The SBC selections for Export Voucher awards are based on available funds and the qualifications of the applicants. An application submittal is no guarantee of an Export Voucher award. Export Voucher reimbursements will be paid in full up to the awarded amount, unless the SBC does not fulfill its obligations with regard to participating in the approved program or submitting required receipts and summaries.
- Program reimbursement ends when all funds have been disbursed, or when the program year ends, September 29, 2012.
- These terms and conditions are subject to change without notice based on funding availability and changes in federal and state procedures and laws.

E. Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and funding decisions will be rendered based on all of the following:

- A first-come, first-served basis. All applications will be accepted starting from the beginning of the program year, regardless of when the event/activity occurs over the course of the year. A portion of funds will be reserved for applications received later in the program year so that late entrants will still have a chance of receiving funds.
- Preference will be given to the following SBCs:
 - SBCs taking advantage of other Export Washington programs, such as the six state-funded export training programs. For further details see <http://www.waexports.com/>.
 - SBCs that focus on technology industries including aerospace, information communication & technology, life sciences, clean technology, advanced manufacturing.
- Numerical evaluation ranking, based on the following scoring system. Applicants must receive a score of 80 or above to be considered for funding.

○ Company Description	20 points
○ Program Event / Activity Information	30 points
○ Program Impact	30 points
○ Program Budget	20 points

Section II – Application Process

A. Process to Apply

To apply for funding, applicants must:

- Obtain an Export Voucher application from the Commerce website (<http://www.choosewashington.com>). The procedures and application forms are in PDF format and can be downloaded and printed off the internet;

- Complete, sign and submit application, plus any supporting documentation (business plan or key personnel resumes, as appropriate) to Washington State Department of Commerce. Applications are only accepted electronically as email attachments (email to danielle.ellingston@commerce.wa.gov);
 - Export Voucher applications must be received at least 3 weeks in advance of the event for which reimbursement is being sought. *Note exception: for eligible events/activities that occur before November 30, 2011, applications will be accepted less than 3 weeks in advance of event.*
- Submit their application by August 15, 2012 for the program year concluding September 29, 2012. No Export Voucher Applications will be accepted after this date for the program year.

The Washington State Department of Commerce will notify applicants as to whether they have been approved for funding, and the dollar amount for which they may be reimbursed. In order to receive reimbursement, successful applicants must:

- Execute proposed event/activity and incur relevant expense(s);
- Submit completed reimbursement form along with receipts and required event summary documentation to the Department of Commerce via email attachment (email to danielle.ellingston@commerce.wa.gov) within 30 days following eligible event/activity.
 - Only eligible expenses accompanied by appropriate receipts will be considered for reimbursement.

Successful Export Voucher recipients will be sent a check for reimbursement within 30 days of submission of receipts and required event summary documentation, assuming all other criteria have been met.

If you elect not to participate in the event/activity after you have submitted an application, we ask that you notify the Department of Commerce as soon as possible so funds may be made available to other SBCs. Please send notification by email to danielle.ellingston@commerce.wa.gov.

B. Project Budget - Eligible Expenses

Budget information must be completed to the best of the SBCs knowledge for matching fund purposes. Funding received from other federal government source(s) cannot be used to satisfy company cash matching requirements.

Reimbursable qualified expense categories are indicated below; other expenses may qualify but only upon Department of Commerce review and approval.

Travel, airfare (economy only), taxes, entry visas
Foreign Market Sales Trips
Trade Show fees, activity registration, booth fees, equipment rental, etc.
Trade Mission fees, activity registration, etc.
Interpreter fees
Translation services: web, marketing material, etc.

Services of the U.S. Commercial Service
Export training programs
International Credit Reports
International Certifications
Export Compliance Audits
Design of International Marketing Campaign

General conditions associated with Export Voucher reimbursement:

- Export Voucher reimbursement is limited to 75% of paid eligible expenses, not to exceed \$5000. SBCs will be required to provide a minimum 25% cash match, or up to \$1250 for a full \$5000 Export Voucher. The 25% company cash match cannot come from another federal government source.
- It is anticipated that there will be high demand for these Export Vouchers which may result in awards to companies at less than their requested amount.
- SBCs may void their award or receive less than the full amount awarded if they do not fulfill their obligations with regard to participating in the approved program or submitting required receipts and summaries.

Section III – Payment Process

- Export Voucher reimbursements will be mailed within 30 days of submission of receipts and required event summary documentation, assuming all other criteria have been met.
- SBCs must be registered in the federal CCR (Central Contractor Registration) database, provide a DUNS number and a Statewide Vendor Number in order to receive reimbursement. You may submit your application without these numbers if you do not have them, and provide them to Commerce later along with receipts and event summary documentation. Although, you will not receive payment for your reimbursable expenses without submitting a DUNS number and Statewide Vendor Number. Applicants without Statewide Vendor Numbers will receive an email from Commerce with instructions on how to apply for one. To register in the CCR database and receive a DUNS number, visit the following website:
<https://www.unitedstatesbusinessregistration.us/?gclid=CNrkmYLVp6wCFQUaQgodTG1DDA>.
- Department of Commerce intends to disburse or have earmarked for disbursement, all Export Voucher funds by program end, September 29, 2012.

Section IV – Program Administration

- Department of Commerce decisions on Export Voucher reimbursements are final.
- The financial and commercial information pertaining to or in application for an Export Voucher will be kept strictly confidential pursuant to **RCW 42.56.270**. Any information given on an application or subsequent completion report and surveys will only be reported as part of aggregated data from multiple Commerce clients that does not identify any individual responses or companies.

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