



SBG and WSS FAQ's

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27/04/2022	E.Wenau	First draft
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What is the Third Policy Stimulus?

The Government is trying to inject money back into the local economy by providing businesses with financial support. There are two ways they are doing this:

- The **Small Business Grant (SBG)** has been designed to support monthly cash flow from March 2022 to the end of August 2022 for all businesses with an annual turnover of less than VT 4 million.
- The **Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS)** has been designed to support businesses that are VAT-registered and distressed ('faenem se hemi hard blong winem mani') with their staffing costs from March 2022 to August 2022 inclusive.

Who can get help?

- The **Small Business Grant (SBG)** is available for any business license holder who has an annual turnover of less than VT 4 million.
- The **Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS)** is for businesses with valid business licenses who can show that they have suffered a drop of income of 30% or more since COVID-19 closed our borders.

Small Business Grant (SBG)

1. Business license holders, liquor license holders and fishing license holders, valid Municipality Open Air Vendor Permit holders

1.1. As a small business owner how much will I get?

1.1.1. You will receive 15,000vt per month for 6 months (March through to August 2022). That is a total of 90,000vt.

1.2. How do I apply for this? what documents do I fill in and where do I get them from?

1.2.1. You need to have a valid business license, liquor license or fishing license, or hold a Municipal Permit from 2021 or 2022 (issued before 15 March 2022) and be the owner of the business.

- 1.2.2. You will need to be able to show that you have made less than 4 million turnovers in the previous year. This will be indicated in the amount you paid for your business license printed on your certificate.
- 1.2.3. If you are VAT registered but did not earn 4 million vatu in the previous year you need a verification letter from Customs Department.
- 1.2.4. If you have a license issued by a provincial government that does not include details of turnover for the previous year this will be accepted.
- 1.2.5. You will need an active bank account and be able to provide your bank account details.
- 1.2.6. It is recommended to open a bank account if you do not have a business bank account, or account in your actual and full name.
- 1.2.7. If your bank account name does not match your business license name, you will need a letter from your bank confirming you are the bank account holder.
- 1.2.8. There will be a standardized Excel spreadsheet which you will be required to complete. This is available on the Finance website - www.doft.gov.vu
- 1.2.9. If you would like assistance VCCI can help you. Come visit one of our dedicated officers at VCCI HQ in Port Vila, or when the team visits your provincial centre in the coming weeks (updates on where and when we will be advertised on our website www.vcci.vu and via our Facebook page).

1.3. Do businesses which applied and were approved to get SBG in 2021 need to complete SBG application forms in 2022?

- 1.3.1. You do not need to reapply.

1.4. Do businesses which applied for SBG 2021 including businesses that submitted business licence certificate dated from April 2021 need to complete SBG application forms in 2022?

- 1.4.1. You do not need to reapply. Only businesses that registered their business licenses from January 1, 2021 to March 15, 2022 can apply if they have not submitted an application last year. Businesses who applied for the second stimulus do not need to apply as they are automatically qualified for the third stimulus.

1.5. Can VAT registered businesses which do not qualify for WSS still apply for the SBG?

- 1.5.1. VAT registered businesses can apply for the SBG in 2022 and need to provide a Verification Letter from Customs Department confirming a reduced annual turnover of less than 4 million vatu in 2021.

1.6. How quickly can I get the money?

- 1.6.1. MoF will process payments as quickly as possible, backdated for March 2022 onwards.
- 1.6.2. Payments will be made by MOF in a lump sum.

Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS)

2. EMPLOYERS

2.1. As an employer wanting support for staff costs how much will I get?

- 2.1.1. Employers will be reimbursed up to 15,000vt per month per employee for any employee earning 30,000vt and above. If the employee earned less than 30,000vt, 50% of their monthly salary will be reimbursed.

- 2.1.2. 15,000vt will be the maximum monthly payment (for example for an employee with a salary of 45,000vt you will receive 15,000vt).
- 2.1.3. These employee payments will be available for 6 months, to reimburse employee costs from March to end August 2022.
- 2.1.4. Once you have applied and been approved the monthly payments will be automatic and no need to re-apply but please provide by email the VNPF receipts and staff schedule for each month paid to assist MOF. MoF will be checking with VNPF directly on your payments.

2.2. How do I apply for this? What documents do I fill in and where do I get them from?

- 2.2.1. You need to have a valid business license for 2021 and be the employer, and you will need to also provide your VNPF Employer Certificate.
- 2.2.2. You will need to be able to show that you have suffered a reduction in turnover of greater than 30%, when comparing VAT returns from December 2020 and 2021, or 4th quarter 2020 and 2021).
- 2.2.3. There will be a standardized Excel spreadsheet which employers will be required to complete. This is available on the Finance website - www.doft.gov.vu
- 2.2.4. If you would like assistance VCCI can help you. Come visit one of our dedicated officers at VCCI HQ in Port Vila, or when the team visits your provincial centre in the coming weeks (updates on where and when we will be advertised on our website www.vcci.vu and via our Facebook page).
- 2.2.5. Can VAT registered businesses which meet the stress test, apply for WSS and be eligible to get WSS in 2022. VAT registered businesses which have not benefited from WSS in 2021, if they meet the stress test, can apply for WSS and be eligible to get WSS in 2022.

2.3. Do businesses which applied for WSS 2021, as eligible and got approved, need to complete WSS application forms in 2022?

- 2.3.1. You do not need to reapply. Businesses who applied for the second stimulus, as eligible and got approved, do not need to apply as they are automatically qualified for the third stimulus. See the WSS Registry of MOF

2.4. How quickly can I get the money?

- 2.4.1. MoF will process payments as quickly as possible, backdated for March 2022 onwards.
- 2.4.2. Payments will be based on payroll from the previous month. Employers need to pay the employee first, and be reimbursed the following month after VNPF checks.
- 2.4.3. Please provide by email VNPF receipts and staff schedule for each month paid to assist MOF.

2.5. As an employer can I re-employ staff and get access to the scheme?

- 2.5.1. Employers can apply for WSS to cover all employees based on the payroll of February 2022. Any new employees/ re-employed staff hired after February 2022 will not be subsidised by WSS.

2.6. Do I need to be a business to access this money for employees? What about house girls and gardeners for example?

2.6.1.This is for employers with a business license only.

2.7. What about casual staff?

2.7.1.As long as you have a business license, and the staff member is on your VNPF payment schedule you can claim for her/him.

3. EMPLOYEES

3.1. As an employee how much will I get?

3.1.1.This reimbursement is not a top up to your regular pay. It is a contribution from the Government to assist your employers keep you in employment, after they have paid you for your month of work.

3.1.2.Employers will be reimbursed up to 15,000vt per month per employee for any employee earning 30,000vt and above. If you the employee earned less than 30,000vt, 50% of your monthly salary will be reimbursed (for example if you earned 20,000vt last month your employer will receive 10,000vt towards your previous months salary).

3.1.3.15,000vt will be the maximum monthly payment to your employer (for example you are an employee with a salary of 45,000vt you employer will receive 15,000vt).