

Business Support @Berlin Partner

Top 10 Frequently Asked Startup Questions

1. Are pre-product companies eligible for any financial support program?

Yes, there are programs which focus on entrepreneurs and founders. For example, there is the Berlin "[GründungsBONUS](#)" for start-ups or the "[Berliner Startup Stipendium](#)" for entrepreneurs prior to founding a company. The [Förderdatenbank](#) also provides a good overview.

With regard to the promotional loans, the [ERP-Gründerkredit - StartGeld](#) can be applied for by freelancers, founders, small and medium-sized enterprises as defined by the EU that have been active on the market for less than 5 years.

2. In the scope of the Soforthilfe II by the State of Berlin, a company could cover personal expenses by this grant program. If a company has received the grant, can it still be used for this purpose although the program is now closed?

The €5,000 of the Soforthilfe II can be used for operational material and financial expenses, personnel costs as well as entrepreneurial/business income. This program has already been closed. However, the Corona-Zuschuss of €9,000 by the Federal Government is still open for application and can be used for operating material and financial expenses as well as personnel costs. (see [IBB](#))

3. If a Berlin-based company has a foreign CEO who does not have a personal tax-ID in Germany, will he/ she be able to apply for Soforthilfe II?

Please contact the IBB via its [contact form](#). In general, foreigners receive their Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Federal Central Tax Office (BZSt) after registering with the Residents' Registration Office. As a foreigner with income in Germany who is not registered, one should contact his/ her local tax office who will apply for the tax ID at the BZSt. (see [BZSt](#))

4. If a company finds out that they do not need the full amount of money received through Soforthilfe II, what is the next step?

In principle, each applicant must check whether he or she is in an existence-threatening economic situation due to the Corona crisis or not. If, after submitting the application, one finds out that he or she is not entitled to do so or has applied for too much, please repay the grant in part or in full as follows:

Account holder: Investitionsbank Berlin

IBAN: EN77 1011 0400 0010 1104 00

Intended use: Returns notification Cxxx-xxxx v. dd.mm.2020

Please add the purpose of the payout with your individual notification number and the date after the word "Rückläufer" (see [IBB FAQ](#))

5. Can one combine Arbeitslosengeld II and Soforthilfe II or are they mutually exclusive?

Arbeitslosengeld II and Soforthilfe II/ the Corona-Zuschuss are not mutually exclusive. One may only apply for the subsidy for one's main occupation. Employees, pensioners, students, trainees, etc. are considered to be partially self-employed. Therefore, they cannot apply for the subsidy. (see [IBB FAQ](#) & [Short facts of the BMWi](#))

- 6. What exactly does a company “in economic difficulties” mean?**
A company is in economic difficulty when it is unable to stem losses with its own resources or with funds borrowed from outside sources. In the short or medium run, this would almost certainly result in the firm's economic ruin if the State did not intervene. (see [IBB FAQ](#) & [IBB](#)).
- 7. If a company has successfully applied to Soforthilfe II (€5,000), can it also apply to the Corona-Zuschuss by the Federal Government (€9,000)?**
If a company only applied for Soforthilfe II by the State of Berlin and not for the Corona Zuschuss by the Federal Government, it can still apply for the latter.
- 8. If a company has successfully applied for Soforthilfe I or II but now becomes aware of a mistake in the application form, how could this be corrected?**
The company should contact the IBB via the [contact form](#). Please describe the need for correction. (see [IBB FAQ](#))
- 9. If a company applied to Soforthilfe I before it was closed, can it still expect its payment?**
As long as the company received an A-number (Antragsnummer) the application is processed by the IBB. If not, the Corona-Zuschuss by the Federal Government is the alternativ option (see [IBB](#) & [IBB FAQ](#))
- 10. What are the options if the house bank does not want to take on the remaining 10% risk at ERP Gründungskredit by KfW?**
The house bank requires collateral for the financing. If these are not sufficient, companies should contact the BürgschaftsBank Berlin, for example. Against a fee they will act as guarantor and provide the housebank with the necessary security for the loan to the respective company in the form of a deficiency guarantee.
The maximum guarantee amount in the context of the Corona crisis is 2.5 million euros. Up to 80% of a loan amount can be taken over by a guarantee. (see [BürgschaftsBank Berlin](#))

Disclaimer

The information on this website and in this document is of a general nature. Further information on the aid measures can be found on the website of Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH. In addition, the Federal Government provides ongoing advice on how the existing instruments can be supplemented and improved. We therefore recommend that you keep up to date on the website of the Federal Ministry of Economics and on the special page of KfW's homepage. You will find an overview of specialised tax advisors in the area of "business management consulting" and "subsidies" on the website of the Berlin Tax Chamber. If you have any questions regarding insolvency, you will find an overview of possible contacts on the website of the Association of Insolvency Administrators in Germany (Verband Insolvenzverwalter Deutschlands e.V.). Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH assumes liability for the contents of its website in accordance with the statutory provisions. The information has been compiled with due care. The information compiled here does not claim to be complete. We assume no responsibility for decisions made by the user on the basis of the aforementioned information. We would like to point out that the present content does not constitute individual legal, accounting, tax or other professional information or recommendation and is not suitable to replace individual advice by competent persons taking into account the specific circumstances of the individual case. This document contains references (links) to websites maintained by third parties. Such third-party websites are not necessarily presented in a frame in this document. Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH has no control or influence whatsoever over the content of third-party websites linked to this document. References and links to third-party websites do not imply that Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH adopts the content behind the reference or link as its own. Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH is therefore not liable for illegal, incorrect or incomplete content or for damages caused by the use of content behind the link. Use of the Internet is at the user's own risk. In particular, Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH shall not be liable for any technically caused failure of the Internet or access to the Internet. For any existing or future legal relationships, German law is exclusively applicable and only German courts have jurisdiction.