



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a fee to nominate or apply?

- No. There is no fee to (self) nominate and or apply.

2. How many nominations can you submit?

- You may nominate as many Saint Paul businesses as you like if they are an eligible business. Refer to question 1 for eligibility requirements.

3. How do you know if a business you are nominating is in Saint Paul?

- You can verify a business location by searching its address at: <https://rb.gy/84ft5>

4. Who decides if a business wins an award?

- A Selection Committee that is made up of past winners from the Saint Paul business community deliberate and decide on the winners. Nominators and applicants are asked to recommend the business for a specific award category, which will be useful in guiding the Committee's final decision.

5. How will I be notified if a business has won an award?

- A press release will be sent out some time in November. The winners will be posted on www.stpaul.gov/bizawards where you are encouraged to learn more about the winners' businesses. You may also sign up to receive ENS notice when an announcement is made at City of St. Paul (govdelivery.com).

6. Can you view the list of current nominations and applications?

- Unfortunately, you cannot view the current list. To uphold a fair and equitable process, all nominations and applications are confidential during the nomination process. However, you may check out past winners at www.stpaul.gov/bizawards.

7. How long does it take to fill out an application/nomination form?

- If you are nominating a business, it should take you no more than 10 minutes. However, if you are applying to be considered for an award category, it may take you between 30-50 minutes to fill out the application depending on how much information you provide.

8. Why did we add the Small but Mighty Award?

- The Small but Mighty award was added because when reviewing our 2025 candidates, we found that there were a lot of businesses that could be identified as microbusinesses applying to our awards. Our selection committee and staff felt that the awards we had didn't fit the bills for them. We decided to respond to this finding by adding a category for them.

9. What is Micro Business?

- **Definition:**
 - According to Saint Pauls' Minimum Wage Ordinance, a microbusiness is generally defined as a business with 5 or less employees.
 - The Indeed Editorial Team notes that microbusinesses are commonly sole proprietorships or family-owned businesses that contribute to local economic growth.
 - Similarly, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce defines a microbusiness as a company generating less than \$250,000 in annual revenue. The Chamber further explains that microbusinesses are a subset of small businesses and often provide specialized products or services within niche markets.
 - The term is often used interchangeably with “micro-enterprise.”
 - In short, microbusiness is a single owner-operated business with 5 or less employees that serves local or niche markets.
- **Citations:**
 - Department of Human Rights & Equal Economic Opportunity. City of Saint Paul Administrative Rules for the Minimum Wage Ordinance, Chapter 224. (November 26, 2025). City of Saint Paul.
<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/human-rights-equal-economic-opportunity/2025-minimum-wage-rules-final-112025.pdf>
 - Indeed Editorial Team. (2022, June 25). What Is a Micro-Enterprise and Why Are They Important? Indeed Career Guide. <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/what-is-micro-enterprise>
 - Fraraccio, M. (2023, December 21). What You Need to Start a Micro Business. US Chamber of Commerce.
<https://www.uschamber.com/co/start/startup/what-is-a-micro-busines>