



COMMERCIAL FAÇADE GRANT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Commercial Façade Grant Program?

The Commercial Façade Grant Program is a grant to help support the revitalization of the commercial corridors in the FPRA district by stimulating private investment in improvements that enhance the appearance of buildings and properties and eliminate blight and non-conforming design standards. This program is designed to encourage redevelopment of the FPRA by enhancing its visual aesthetics which will lead to increased property values, tenant occupancy, economic development, and job creation. This program will complement other revitalization efforts to ensure the maximum leverage of resources and support local businesses.

What is the maximum award for the grant?

The Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program offers financial assistance in the form of a reimbursable, matching (50%) grant up to \$25,000 to the property or business owner for eligible expenses associated with improving the external appearance of their business and to encourage businesses to invest in their operations. Grants cannot be awarded retroactively for work that has already been completed.

When is the pre-application deadline for the Commercial Façade Grant Program and where do I submit my pre-application?

The pre-application deadline is November 24, 2021 at 5:00pm and can be submitted online at <https://cityoffortpierce.com/FormCenter/Economic-Development-Incentive-Program-18/COMMERCIAL-FACADE-GRANT-PROGRAM-PREAPPLI-91>. Paper applications are available by request, please contact Miriam Garcia at 772-828-1861 or email mgarcia@cityoffortpierce.com.

Do I have to submit a pre-application before I receive the application?

Yes, a pre-application is required to determine eligibility.

Is my business eligible for the grant?

Ensure that your business is located within the FPRA District, review program guidelines and eligibility and complete the pre-application form. For a complete list of eligibility requirements and additional information, please visit:

<https://choosefortpierce.com/969/FPRA-Incentive-Program>

What types of improvements are eligible for the grant?

Examples of eligible improvements are signs, awnings/canopies, façade improvements, walls, fencing, landscaping, removing and disposing of old façade coverings, 10% of project architectural fees, updating security features, removing

excessive window signage, restoring building elements, construction of pedestrian and bicycle amenities, and art installations. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

What types of improvements are not eligible for the grants?

New construction, interior improvements, features designed to be installed temporarily including seasonal landscaping, maintenance activities such as painting, power-washing, landscape maintenance, permit fees and taxes, improvements made prior to grant approval, sweat equity payments, improvements that are required as a result of a violation notice.

Do I have to complete the work before I get paid?

Yes, the applicant will incur 100% of the project costs and may receive 50% reimbursement only after all improvements have been completed in accordance with the grant award up to \$25,000.

Can I apply for a grant if I am a commercial tenant and do not own my building?

Yes, you will be required to provide a signed multi-year lease and written permission from the property owner to make the changes outlined in the project.

How does the FPRA decide who is awarded funding?

This grant is not first-come, first-served. City staff will evaluate the application against the evaluation criteria. The CRA Advisory Committee will review the rankings and make recommendations to the FPRA Board. The FPRA Board will make the final determination.