

Community Redevelopment Agency

Commercial Grant Program

Introduction

The purpose of the CRA Commercial Grant Program is to restore and improve commercial buildings within the Community Redevelopment Agency District in an effort to improve the area in ways that contribute to the physical, economic, social and aesthetic well-being of the City of Wauchula. Moreover, it is the intent of this program to encourage improvements to private properties that go well beyond what is required under the City of Wauchula's Land Development Regulations to enhance the form, function and design quality of this redevelopment district.

Program Guidelines

1. Funds shall be allocated on a first come first served basis. Only one grant shall be awarded per business. Tenants may qualify upon receipt of written consent from the owner of the building.
2. Where practical, all building facades shall be restored to their original period design. If it is deemed not practical by the CRA Board, or found to not contribute or enhance the aesthetic appeal of the building or surrounding buildings then a similar or new architectural design shall be considered. (Buildings within the HC1 area are subject to following the design guidelines set forth in the City of Wauchula Code of Ordinances and review and approval by the appointed reviewing board.
3. Improvements shall be designed, constructed and maintained to compliment and accent the architectural features of the buildings. All accessories, signs, awnings, etc. shall likewise harmonize with the overall character of the buildings.
4. All grant funds require a matching dollar for dollar expenditure by the owner/tenant per category.
5. No work for which a grant is sought should begin until authorized by the CRA.
6. All work completed by the applicant requires an estimate from a licensed professional to verify that costs are within reasonable parameters.
7. Grantee is responsible for obtaining any permits required to do the project.
8. Any unapproved changes to the project will void the grant unless preapproved by the CRA Board.
9. Applicant shall have 6 months from the date of the written notice to complete the work. After 6 months, the grant will be closed out unless an extension has been granted by the CRA Board.
10. Applicant agrees to maintain the completed project in its approved design for a minimum of 5 years from the date of completion.
11. Upon grant approval, applicant will be required to place a CRA Grant sign, furnished by the CRA Office, viewable by the public, for the duration of the project. Failure to return the sign at the completion of the project will generate a \$20 charge to be deducted from the reimbursement.
12. Applications must be submitted by the 1st Monday of the month to be placed on that month's CRA Agenda.

Eligibility Requirements

1. The applicant must be the owner of the building. A tenant may qualify upon receipt of written consent by the owner of the building.
2. Property taxes, both City and County, must be current.
3. The building must be structurally sound and non-residential.
4. Government owned buildings will be considered on a case by case basis.

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Grant Opportunities

Matching Façade Grant – 50% reimburse of project with a maximum of \$7,500

(Not eligible for Main Street Façade Grant for the same project)

- Façade enhancements, improvements and renovations
 - Signs - including removing old signs and the design, production and installation of new signs or renovation of existing signs if compliant with current codes.
 - Awnings/Canopies - including the removal of the old and the design, production, and installation of new awnings and canopies.
 - Facades - includes work performed on the exterior storefront of a building such as cleaning masonry (high pressure water or steam - sandblasting is prohibited on masonry structures), painting, re-pointing or mortar joints, woodwork, window and/or door replacement, other repairs or rebuilding historic storefronts. The work in this category is eligible only if they are part of significant exterior structural enhancements.
 - Walls, Fencing and Landscaping – includes work that removes and replaces or adds appropriate fencing and landscaping to hide incompatible uses or negative site elements such as storage yards, outdoor fabrication, work area, or dumpsters.
 - Removing and disposing of old façade coverings_(i.e. vinyl and aluminum cladding, window boards)
 - Reconstructing storefronts:_raising parapet walls, installing new doors and windows, reconfiguring entryways
 - Removing old wood, aluminum, or stucco cladding -_includes materials and services to remove the cladding.
 - Exposing boarded windows.
 - Lighting - installing new storefront lighting and sign lighting.

Design Assistance Grant – 50% reimbursement of project with a maximum of \$3,000

- Architectural services to assist with the development of a façade concept or design
 - Architect must be licensed in the State of Florida

Matching Revitalization Grant – 50% reimbursement of project with a maximum of \$5,000

- Interior improvements
- Electrical work, except as related to signage or exterior lighting
- Roof and chimney repairs

Commercial Life Safety Compliance Grant – 50% reimbursement of project with a maximum of \$5,000

- Sprinkler systems – as required by the Hardee County Fire Inspector
- Fire alarm systems – as required by the Hardee County Fire Inspector

Application Process

1. Applicants must submit a completed application and all supporting documents including cost estimates from a licensed architect or licensed contractor, painters, or other licensed professional qualified to complete the work.
 - For the Commercial Life Safety Compliance Grant, applicants must submit a letter from the Hardee County Fire Inspector as well as a quote for the work.
2. For any façade renovations a sketch or drawing of proposed work must be submitted along with the application.
3. CRA Staff reviews the application for compliance and presents to the CRA Board for approval.
4. Upon CRA Board approval, a letter of commitment is provided to the applicant.
 - Grants are not automatic and are subject to their compliance with goals set for in the CRA Master Redevelopment as well as funding availability.
5. Funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis after all work has been completed and receipts have been turned in to the CRA office.

Community Redevelopment Agency Commercial Grant Program APPLICATION

Date Rec'd _____
CRA Board Review _____
Grant Award _____

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Business Name: _____

Property Owner Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Applicants Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Estimated Start Date: _____ Estimated Completion Date: _____

Check All That Apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Matching Façade Grant	Total Cost of Project: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Design Assistance Grant	Total Cost of Project: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Matching Revitalization Grant	Total Cost of Project: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Life Safety Compliance Grant	Total Cost of Project: _____
TOTAL PROJECT:	_____

To Be Filled Out By Staff
Grant Request: _____
Grant Request: _____
Grant Request: _____
Grant Request: _____
TOTAL REQUEST: _____

Please Attach the Following:

- _____ Complete description of project (include samples of paint chips, materials used, etc.)
- _____ Professional estimates for ALL work to be completed under the grant request (must be St of FL licensed)
- _____ Project renderings of proposed improvements, enhancements, additions, signage, etc. when required.
- _____ Requirement letter from the Hardee County Fire Inspector (applies to Commercial Life Safety Compliance Grant only)

I hereby submit the following grant application for consideration by the City of Wauchula CRA Board. I understand that the request must be approved by the Board and that funding is not guaranteed approved. I also understand that no grant monies shall be paid out until the project is completed and paid invoices/receipts are provided. The project must be completed within 6 months of the grant approval. Should any changes be made to the project without prior approval by the CRA Board I understand that the grant will be void. I agree to maintain the completed project in its approved design for a minimum of 5 years from the date of completion.

Print Name of Applicant

Applicant Signature

Date

