

# **FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS: FAQs**

## **How do I know if I am eligible?**

- You must own or lease a commercial property (private residences do not qualify for this program).
- The property must be located within the boundary of a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA). Check [this map](#) to determine if you are in a CIA boundary.
- Property must contain an active commercial business or be undergoing renovations for the opening of a business.

## **What building improvements are eligible?**

- The installation of a new façade
- Major enhancement to an existing façade (including but not limited to windows, siding, signage, awnings, etc.). *Note: The West Side CIA also covers new construction and the installation of exterior security cameras, and the Uptown CIA covers the cost of ADA compliance.*
- General or deferred maintenance and upkeep of existing exterior is NOT covered under these programs.

## **What is the application process like?**

- A flowchart of the façade improvement grant programs application process can be found [here](#).
- The application process can take approximately one to three months depending on meeting dates.

## **How much of a reimbursement can I apply for?**

- Each CIA has a different reimbursement threshold. Check [this page](#) to determine what your project might be eligible for.

## **I am a business owner, but I lease my space. Can I apply?**

- Yes, business owners leasing space can apply with written permission from the property owner.

## **I owe city taxes. Can I apply?**

- No, applicants must be current on City of Grand Rapids taxes and must not owe other City fees prior to filing an application. Staff will confirm this prior to the payment of the grant.

## **Do I need permits from the City to complete my project?**

- It depends on the project. If you are unsure what permits or approvals your project may need, contact Darrell Singleton, the City's Customer Ombudsperson and he can assist you. [dsingleton@grcity.us](mailto:dsingleton@grcity.us) or 616-456-3971

### Where can I find an application?

- Applications can either be filled out by hand or electronically. To download a copy of the application of the program you are applying for visit [this page](#). To apply electronically visit [this page](#). No account is needed to complete an application online.

### Where do I send my application?

- Applications filled out electronically will be sent by the City's Economic Development Department to the proper CIA contact for that program.
- Applications filled out by hand can be submitted in one of the following ways:
  - Mailed to:

City of Grand Rapids  
Economic Development Department  
300 Monroe Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

- Emailed to the CIA contact for that program (listed below).

### Who do I contact with questions?

- Uptown CIA
  - Ingrid Miller: [imiller@uptowngr.com](mailto:imiller@uptowngr.com)
- Southtown CIA
  - Kelsey Liebenow: [southtowncid@gmail.com](mailto:southtowncid@gmail.com)
- Michigan Street CIA
  - Kelsey Liebenow: [michiganstreetcia@gmail.com](mailto:michiganstreetcia@gmail.com)
- West Side CIA
  - Jessica Solis: [econdevshrd@grcity.us](mailto:econdevshrd@grcity.us)
- South Division-Grandville CIA
  - Jose Nietes: [jnietes13@gmail.com](mailto:jnietes13@gmail.com)
- North Quarter CIA
  - [NorthQuarterCID@gmail.com](mailto:NorthQuarterCID@gmail.com)