



## **FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: FAQs**

This Southtown CIA financial assistance program is intended to stimulate enhancements of commercial buildings by supporting eligible property and business owners for façade installations, upgrades or alterations to building exteriors.

### **How do I know if my business is eligible?**

- You must own or lease a commercial property (private residences do not qualify for this program)
- The property must be located within the Southtown CIA boundaries (pg. 7 of the application)
- Property must contain an active commercial business or be undergoing renovations for the opening of a business within six months

### **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.)
- General maintenance and upkeep of existing exterior is NOT included in this program.

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

- The CIA will reimburse applicants for 50 percent of their project costs UP TO \$10,000. Funding is provided on a competitive basis.

### **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.

### **Where can I find an application?**

The application packet is available at <http://bit.ly/SouthtownCIA>. For a pre-printed application packet, visit the City of Grand Rapids Economic Development office at 300 Monroe Ave NW, Floor 9.

For additional questions, contact Danielle Williams, the Southtown Corridor Manager at [southtowncid@gmail.com](mailto:southtowncid@gmail.com) or call 616-644-3029.