



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 Kelsey Liebenow, the Southtown Corridor Manager at southtowncid@gmail.com.