

## **FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS: FAQs**

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

- You must own or lease a commercial or industrial 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, painting, etc.). *Note: Some CIAs cover new construction, installation of exterior security cameras, and ADA compliance improvements. Refer to the CIA Façade Program Guidelines*
- 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 program application process can be found [here](#).
- The application process can take approximately one to three months, depending on the CIA board 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 the Planning Department at [planning@grcity.us](mailto:planning@grcity.us) or **616.456.4100**

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

- Applications can either be filled out by hand or electronically. To download a copy of the application for the program you are applying for, visit [this page](#). To apply electronically, visit [this page](#).

### **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
  - [imiller@uptowngr.com](mailto:imiller@uptowngr.com)
- Southtown CIA
  - [info@southtowngr.com](mailto:info@southtowngr.com)
- Michigan Street CIA
  - [info@mistreet.org](mailto:info@mistreet.org)
- West Side CIA
  - [econdevshrd@grcity.us](mailto:econdevshrd@grcity.us)
- South Division-Grandville CIA
  - [econdevshrd@grcity.us](mailto:econdevshrd@grcity.us)
- North Quarter CIA
  - [hello@bestincreston.com](mailto:hello@bestincreston.com)