



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvements Grant Program

Updated: April 2025

Return Applications to:
City of Taft Economic Development
Corporation P.O. Box 416
Taft, TX 78390
TaftEDCB@Tafttx.gov
361-528-3512



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Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvements Grant Program

Guidelines and Application Packet

INDEX:	Application Instructions	3
	Guidelines.....	4
	Application.....	7
	Landlord Form	9
	Program Checklist	10
	Reimbursement Request	11
	Work Completed Draw Request	12



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Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvements Grant Program *Application Instructions*

If you have any questions, please contact the City of Taft Economic Development Corporation at TaftEDCB@TaftTX.Gov

Recognizing that businesses in Taft were greatly impacted by Hurricane Harvey the TEDC is offering a Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvements Grant program to assist in the efforts to rebuild our community. This grant is applicable to commercial properties (local businesses) located in the City of Taft. The goal of this program is to assist businesses rebuild after Hurricane Harvey, to improve the overall appearance of the business and the community, and to make properties more attractive for quality businesses that will improve the overall vitality of Taft.

The Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvement Grant Program is available to property owners per building/business, and in some situations, tenants, of storefronts, commercial buildings, and commercial residential buildings. **A maximum of \$10,000 may be available and requires a dollar-for-dollar match.** Business Rebuilding and Façade Grant funds focus on non-temporary repairs to exterior walls and roof; interior ceiling and walls, including, but not limited to, items such as reconstruction, renovation, windows, doors, drywall and painting. Façade funds may also be utilized to improve fencing, drainage, parking lots and other portions facing major thoroughfares.

The attached Grant Application and Agreement must be submitted with requested support documents to the TEDC for review prior to any grant funded work being initiated.

I. Grant Application Process

1. Determine Eligibility: Discuss plans with a representative from the Taft Economic Development Corporation.
2. Consult with a Business Advisor from the Del Mar - Small Business Development Center.
3. Complete the Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvement Grant Program Application, Landlord Form (if tenant), and Guidelines with copy of cost estimates.
4. Submit photos and any project plans of any work to be conducted for which you are seeking funds.
5. The approval process will include the following elements:

- a) All Business Rebuilding and Façade Grant projects must meet current building standards and codes, as well as building permit requirements.
- b) The Historic Review Board shall be an advisory board to the TEDC and shall make recommendations regarding the approval of Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvement Grant requests, as needed.
- c) Applications will be considered by the TEDC, or its designee, on specified dates (“Consideration Dates”) set by the TEDC. Applications and all required attachments must be submitted a minimum of five (5) days before the consideration date. Approval from the Historic Review Board, if applicable, must be provided with the application. *Consideration of applications may be delayed in the event the TEDC, or its designee, fails to seat a quorum for a Consideration Date meeting, elects for any reason not to hold a meeting, or elects for any reason not to consider Applications at a particular meeting.*
- d) The TEDC shall consider only Applications which have been properly and fully completed and which contain all information required in the Application.
- e) All construction proposals and/or cost estimates submitted by an Applicant must be current and must be dated no earlier than ninety (90) days prior to the Application request.
- f) An Applicant who submits an Application that was denied by the TEDC shall not be eligible to re-submit a Grant Application for six (6) months from the date the prior Application was denied.
- g) Notwithstanding anything stated in this Application to the contrary, final approval for any Grant shall be vested in the Taft Economic Development Corporation, or its designee, at its sole discretion. The TEDC, or its designee, shall recommend Grant awards taking into consideration the Grant amount requested, Grant funds available, the Grant program objectives, condition of the building in which the Grant funds will be used, effectiveness of the construction, other Grant requests, the type and nature of the construction, and the proposed construction results considering the Grant program.
- h) No Applicant has a proprietary right to receive Grant funds. The TEDC, or its designee, shall consider any Application within its discretionary authority to determine what Grant amount would be in the best interest of the Grant Program. The review criteria may include, but shall not be limited to, compatibility with existing downtown structures, architectural design, streetscape objectives, and overall rebuilding/redevelopment of Taft. The TEDC, or its designee, reserves the right to utilize whatever outside resources it deems necessary for assistance in its decision-making process.
- i) The Applicant shall be required to furnish photographs of the building’s exterior, and interior if applicable, as part of the Application request and also after the construction is completed, as a condition of any Grant reimbursement or work completed draw.
- j) Applicants who are owners of multiple businesses shall be allowed only one Application per business during a Funding Cycle (October 1st – September 30th). If Applicant has remaining funds, these funds can be utilized with a second grant application (additional \$10,000) on a second business.

II. Grant Guidelines:

1. Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received based on availability of funds. No Grants will be awarded for work that has already been initiated or completed.
2. Any new or existing retail or service business within the City of Taft who has a DBA and/or Federal ID Number is eligible to apply for the Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvement Grant. Entity must be a for-profit business.
3. The Applicant is required to obtain all applicable local, state, or federal permits and approvals required for the construction if a Grant is awarded.
4. Applicants operating in a leased facility must provide to the TEDC, at time of application submission, a completed "Landlord Form".
5. Applicants receiving approval by the TEDC, or its designee, shall commence construction described within the Application within sixty (60) days from the date the Grant is awarded. All Applicants must complete the construction described in the Application within 180 days from the date the Grant is approved. The Applicant can submit a written request to the TEDC for an extension.
6. Grant recipients agree to maintain improvements, essentially in the condition approved, for a period of twelve (12) months. Grant funds must be replaced if the terms of the grant are not satisfied.
7. Subsequent funding will be determined by annual budget allocations.
8. Grant funds may not exceed \$10,000 per approved application, per year.
9. All design plans (e.g. paint, color, sign size and proposed placement) must be approved by the TEDC prior to receiving funds.
10. Grants will be administered as either:
 - a) Reimbursements once project, or portions of the project, have been completed and passed inspections as agreed upon and receipts are shown for work completed (after insurance claims); or
 - b) Work completed draws for portions of the project still in progress.
11. Building or business owners must apply for the Grant before restoration or renovation work has begun. No Grants will be awarded for work that had already been initiated.

III. Distribution of Funds

1. Reimbursements

- a) When the entire Grant project, or portions thereof, have been satisfactorily completed and reviewed, the applicant shall present the TEDC with copies of all paid invoices, including copies of cancelled checks and/or credit card receipts, for reimbursement of the approved funding. Maximum reimbursement may not exceed grant award.

2. Work Completed Draw

- a) For applicants requesting to receive funds as portions of the project are completed, a “Work Completed Draw Request” form will be required along with invoices and pictures of progress. Funds will be distributed upon verification of said percentage of project completion. Maximum cumulative draw amount may not exceed grant award.

IV. Appeal Process

The TEDC, or its designee, determination shall be deemed final action regarding the application.

I/We have received and read these Guidelines for the Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvement Grant Program and agree to be subject to them.

Signature of Applicant

Printed Name

Date

Signature of Applicant

Printed Name

Date



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Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvements Grant Program *Application Form*

Application Date: ___/___/___

Applicant and Property Owner Information

Applicant(s) Name(s): _____

Applicant Phone: _____ Applicant Email: _____

Name of Business Entity: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Relationship to Property: Owner Tenant *If tenant, please complete "Landlord Form"*

Business Information

Physical Address: _____

Date business was established in Taft: _____

Brief Description of Business Activity:

Type of Business: Sole Proprietorship Partnership Corporation LLC Other

Number of Employees: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

Grant Request Information

Estimated Cost of Project: _____ Amount of Funding Requested: _____

Please describe the project for which funding is requested (use additional sheets if necessary):

Type of grant requested: Reimbursement Work Completed Draw Combination

Applicant(s) Acknowledgements

I (We) the undersigned do hereby acknowledge and/or certify, as the case may be, the following:

1. That the submission of this Application does not create any property, contract, or other legal rights on any person or entity to have the TEDC provide grant funding.
2. That if grant funding is approved, full compliance will be maintained with all the provisions of the "Guidelines and Criteria", and/or special provisions attached as a part of the grant, and that failure to do so can be grounds for ineligibility to receive previously approved grant funding.
3. That before the application is to be reviewed by the TEDC, designee(s) of the TEDC shall have the right to inspect the business and work to be considered.
4. That the TEDC reserves the right, its absolute right of discretion, in deciding whether or not to approve a grant relative to this application.
5. That the laws of the State of Texas shall govern the interpretation, validity, performance, and enforcement of the "Guidelines and Criteria", and this Application, and that if any provision or provisions of these shall not be affected thereby.
6. That this grant does not fund any items which are covered under an insurance claim.
7. That the information provided in this Application, and all that may have been affixed hereto, is true and correct, and that the TEDC may rely on all of the information herein contained, and all that may have been affixed hereto, as being true and correct.

Signature of Applicant	Printed Name	Date
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Signature of Applicant	Printed Name	Date
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Please initial the following statement:

_____ I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of, and will comply with, Texas Windstorm Insurance Agency rules, regulations and inspections.



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Landlord Form

(To be Completed by Landlord if Applicant is a Tenant)

Name of Property Owner: _____

Property Owner Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Lease Term: _____

Landlord's Acknowledgement:

I have been informed of the applicant's intention to perform the improvements described in this application and the attached documentation, and I hereby authorize the applicant to apply for the proposed Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvement Grant.

Landlord's Signature

Date



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Business Rebuilding and Façade Improvements Grant Program Checklist

- Consult with a representative from the Taft Economic Development Corporation to determine eligibility and review Façade Improvement Incentive Grant Instructions.
- Consult with a Business Advisor from the Del Mar Small Business Development Center to discuss your existing or developing small business.
- Fill out Business Rebuilding and Facade Improvement Grant Application form and sign Guidelines and Application. (Include all required attachments: contractor estimates, if applicable; photographs of building exterior, interior if applicable, and project plans). Include Landlord form, if tenant.
- Return completed Application and Guidelines with required attachments to the TEDC five (5) days prior to the designated Consideration Date.
- Once approved, project work must commence within sixty (60) days of approval by the TEDC and completed within 180 days.
- Obtain all applicable local, state and federal approvals and permits prior to starting any work on the approved project.
- For applicants requesting reimbursement, upon completion of project furnish photographs of the building's exterior and interior if applicable; copies of all paid invoices, including copies of cancelled checks and/or credit card receipts, to receive a reimbursement of the approved funding.
- For applicants requesting to receive funds as portions of the project are completed, a "Work Completed Draw Request" form will be required along with invoices and pictures of progress. Funds will be distributed upon verification of said percentage of project completion.



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Part I: Provide a detailed itemization of the work completed.

<u>Description of Work</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
	Total Amount Paid:	\$_____

Part II: Attach copies of all invoices listed above, and proof of payment such as copies of cancelled checks and / or credit card receipts.

Submitted by: _____

Date _____

<i>TEDC use only:</i> Original Grant Award \$_____	Balance of Grant Award Available \$_____
Amount paid \$_____ Ck# _____	Date paid _____ By _____ Remaining Award Balance \$_____



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Part I: Provide a detailed itemization of the work in progress.

<u>Description of Work & Percentage Complete</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Total Amount Requested:		\$ <u>0</u>

Part II: Attach copies of all invoices listed above, and pictures of work in progress.

Submitted by: _____

Date _____

<p><i>TEDC use only:</i> Original Grant Award \$ _____ Balance of Grant Award Available \$ _____</p> <p>Amount paid \$ _____ Ck# _____ Date paid _____ By _____ Remaining Award Balance \$ _____</p>
