

Date posted: September 29, 2025
Proposals due: October 31, 2025



Great Streets Facade Improvement Matching Grant Program Administration

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) 2025 Funding Round

Introduction

The City of Minneapolis ("City") is looking for organizations to administer the [Facade Improvement Matching Grant Program](#) in the eligible program areas.

Neighborhood business districts are like the front door of our neighborhoods. They help shape how people feel about a neighborhood. A welcoming, vibrant business district sends a powerful, positive message about the neighborhoods around it. The Great Streets Facade Grant Program wants to encourage businesses and building owners to invest in their storefronts, bring new businesses into empty spaces, support healthy and attractive business areas, and give help to organizations that work with businesses in their service area.

Who Can Apply?

Non-profit groups can apply. This includes:

- Business associations
- Community development corporations
- Neighborhood organizations
- Other organizations that have that have experience helping businesses and managing funding

If a group doesn't have enough experience, they can partner with another group that does.

What Program Administrators Do:

- Promote the grant program
- Assist property and business owners with the application process
- Keep good records of each grant given
- Review applications for eligibility
- Help businesses make high-quality improvements
- Provide the City with all required paperwork

Organizations with large remaining balances from past facade grant contracts, or those with more than one open facade contract, **are not eligible** to apply.

Organizations may apply if they have only one active facade contract and have used or committed at least 75% of the grant funds (not including administrative fees).

Grant funds are considered "committed" if your organization has a signed and approved Business Application and Participation Agreement with a business or property owner. These agreements are considered active if the project is still in progress or if it has been completed and the final paperwork is being submitted.

How the Program Works

Organizations awarded funding will administer the Program consistent with all program guidelines outlined on the City's [Façade Improvement Matching Grant application process webpage](#). This program administration includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Organizations disburse matching grants to business and property owners for eligible improvements to commercial buildings.
- Facade grants can pay for many exterior facade improvements, including painting, tuck-pointing, doors, windows, awnings, murals, and outside lighting.
- The City requires permits for most projects. Business and property owners must work with applicable City staff on plans and obtain all necessary permits before beginning work.
- The City has developed a set of standard materials for program implementation. Grant administrator organizations must review applications to verify that they meet the guidelines.
- The minimum administrator contract request is \$20,000 and the maximum contract request is \$50,000. The standard contract length is three years.

- During the contract period, an annual report is required. The report helps staff understand the status of disbursing the contract and how staff can best refer prospects to the administrators as well as surfaces ideas for program improvements.
- Up to 15% of the total award can be used for program administration costs.
- Organizations must submit disbursement materials online through the City's SharePoint site.

Where are the Grants Available?

Eligible areas include parcels identified as one of seven Land Use Categories defined in the City's comprehensive plan – Minneapolis 2040 - and shown on the [Great Streets Eligible Areas Map](#). The Great Streets map shows the program areas in blue, orange, or purple. The blue parcels are eligible areas, the orange parcels are priority areas, and the purple parcels are Cultural Districts.

Grant Match and Maximum Amounts

The maximum grant available depends on the building's location, as outlined on the [Façade improvement award webpage](#) and as follows:

- Blue areas: For every \$2 the business spends, the grant gives \$1, up to \$5,000
- Orange areas: For every \$1 the business spends, the grant gives \$1, up to \$7,500
- Purple areas: For every 50 cents the business spends, the grant gives \$1, up to \$10,000

How Proposals Will Be Reviewed

A review team will assess the proposals and make a recommendation to the City Council for funding. Portions of the proposal contents, and any clarification to the contents submitted by the applicant, may become part of the contractual obligation if a contract is awarded. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and negotiate modifications to an entire proposal to create a contract of lesser or greater magnitude than described in the submitted proposal.

How to Submit Your Proposal

Send your proposal using the Proposal Submittal Form by **Friday, October 31, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.** to judy.moses@minneapolismn.gov.

Late proposals will not be accepted.

You will get an email confirmation within 48 hours after your proposal is received.

It is your responsibility to assure the proposal is emailed on time. Incomplete proposals will not be considered for funding.

Questions About the Program

Send questions by **Friday, October 10, 2025**, to Judy Moses at judy.moses@minneapolismn.gov. Answers will be posted online by **Friday, October 17, 2025**.

The department contact cannot vary the terms of the NOFA.

Timeline

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| NOFA Issued | Monday, September 29, 2025 |
| Question Submission Deadline | Friday, October 10, 2025 |
| Q &A Posted Online | Friday, October 17, 2025 |
| Proposal Deadline | Friday, October 31, 2025 |
| Proposal Review | November 2025 |
| Recommendation to City Council | December 2025 |
| Contract Start Date | After City Council approves |

City Contracting Requirements

Additional City requirements vary. The following list **is not** exhaustive.

1. **Data Practices** – Grantee agrees to comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (the “Act”) and all other applicable state and federal laws relating to data privacy or confidentiality. The Grantee and any of Grantee’s sub-grantees, borrowers or sub-contractors retained to provide services under this Contract shall comply with the Act and be subject to penalty for non-compliance as though they were a governmental entity. The Grantee will immediately report to the City any requests from third parties for information relating to this Agreement. The City agrees to promptly respond to inquiries from the Grantee concerning data requests. The Grantee agrees to hold the City, its officers, and employees harmless from any claims resulting from the Grantee’s unlawful disclosure or use of data protected under state and federal laws, regardless of the limits of insurance coverage.
2. **Intellectual Property** – The recipient must agree to provide the City with the right to royalty-free, non-exclusive license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and to authorize others to use any intellectual property created using the grant funds. Work covered by this provision shall include inventions, improvements, discoveries, databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, electronic files, specifications, materials, tapes, or other media.
3. **Billboard Advertising** – Through Ordinance 109.470, City and City-derived funds are prohibited from use to pay for billboard advertising as a part of a City project or undertaking.
4. **Conflict of Interest/Code of Ethics** – Pursuant to Section 15.250 of the City’s Code of Ordinances, both the City and the Grantee are required to comply with the City’s Code of Ethics. Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances requires City officials and the Grantee to avoid any situation that may give rise to a “conflict of interest.”

As it applies to the Grantee, the City’s Code of Ethics will also apply to the Grantee in its role as an “interested person” since Grantee has a direct financial interest in this Contract. The City’s Code of Ethics prevents “interested persons” from giving certain gifts to employees and elected officials.

The Grantee covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required under this Agreement. Grantee understands that making a grant or loan for the benefit of a property in which Grantee has a financial interest is considered a Conflict of Interest. The Grantee further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having such an interest shall be employed by the Grantee hereunder. The Grantee covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required under this Agreement. The Grantee further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having such an interest shall be employed by the Grantee hereunder. Grantee understands that using proceeds of any grant or loan for the benefit of a property in which Grantee has a financial interest is considered a conflict of interest, unless:

1. Any grants or loans are made available to all businesses in the community who meet Program requirements through a fair, open, and competitive process, as approved by CPED staff; and;
 2. The improvements made by any business do not directly benefit a building owned by Grantee (e.g. making a grant to a business tenant in Grantee's building for window replacement would not be acceptable; making a grant for signage specific to the business of the tenant would not be a conflict).
5. **Hold Harmless** – The recipient shall agree to defend, indemnify and hold the City harmless from any and all claims or lawsuits that may arise from the recipient's activities under the provisions of the Contract, that are attributable to the negligent acts or omissions, including breach of specific contractual duties of the recipient or the recipient's independent contractors, agents, employees or officers.
 6. **Insurance** - Prior to starting the services described herein, Grantee shall provide evidence of and continually maintain throughout the term of this Agreement, workers' compensation insurance in accordance with statutory requirements. The Grantee shall also provide evidence of and continually maintain: (i) commercial general liability insurance which shall include contractual liability coverage, (ii) automobile insurance for any vehicles owned by the Grantee, and (iii) hired/non-owned automobile insurance (if Grantee or Grantee's independent contractors will be driving automobiles while performing services under this Agreement) in amounts sufficient to indemnify the City, but in no event less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence with aggregate coverage of \$1,000,000. Said insurance policy(ies) shall name the City as an additional insured. Grantee shall immediately forward to the City any notices it receives of cancellation or revocation of the foregoing policies.
 7. **Compliance with the Law** – Grantee agrees to abide by the requirements and regulations of The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Minnesota Human Rights Act (Minn. Stat. C.363A), the Minneapolis Civil Rights Ordinance (Ch. 139), and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. These laws deal with discrimination based on race, gender, disability, religion, and with sexual harassment. In the event the Grantee has questions concerning these requirements, the City agrees to promptly supply all necessary clarifications. Violation of any of the above laws can lead to termination of this Contract.