

**Manchester Business Façade and Signage
Improvement Fund Grant Program
Guidelines and Application**

2023-2024

Sponsored by:

*The Town of Manchester, Administered by the Department of
Planning and Economic Development*

Mission Statement:

The Manchester Business Façade and Signage Improvement Program (Program) is intended to strengthen and promote small local business, to stimulate reinvestment in commercial buildings, and facilitate local economic development. To achieve this goal, the Town is providing reimbursement grants to small business owners in order to improve the exterior appearance of commercial and mixed-use buildings and signage.

The goals of the program are to:

- Mitigate financial hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Encourage private investment in commercial properties.
- Strengthen local businesses.
- Enhance the aesthetics of commercial and mixed-use areas.
- Rehabilitate or restore the original character of historic buildings.
- Provide a catalyst for others to improve their buildings and storefronts.

Manchester Business Façade and Signage Improvement Fund Guidelines

Grant Program Parameters:

1. The grant program is limited to small business owners within the town of Manchester or potential owners with a signed contingency agreement; For the purposes of this program an established LLC will be considered a business.
2. Grantees must document how the business was negatively financially impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Applicants must be independently owned and operated and must have been in operation for a minimum of 10 years.
4. Awardees must be located on arterial roads or collector roads adjacent to a business zone.
5. Improvements must conform with the mission statement of the Program.
6. The total original grant pool is \$200,000;
7. Applications may be submitted between July 24, 2023 and July 1, 2024. Grant availability is subject to available funds.
8. All grants require a dollar-for-dollar match by the applicant;
9. The minimum grant amount is \$1,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$10,000.

10. The number of grants per property may be limited to 1;
11. The Economic Development Commission will approve expenditures from the fund by finding that the completion of the project conforms with the program mission and:
 - Respects any historically significant aspects of building façades;
 - Enhances the overall environment and economic viability of the area;
 - Conforms to any relevant design guidelines or regulations.
12. The property owner must receive tax clearance from the Manchester Collector of Revenue;
13. Grant payments will be distributed as reimbursement to the owner once the project is complete, and invoices and proof of payment have been submitted.

Grant Funding Guidelines:

Examples of eligible expenses include but are not limited to exterior repairs and renovations on commercial storefronts and facades visible to public streets, alleys, parking, and pedestrian walkway areas in compliance with all relevant zoning regulations and design guidelines.

Expenses incurred in 2022 or 2023 prior to submission of the application, qualify with acceptable documentation evidencing incurrence or payment of these expenses.

Grant Application Instructions:

1. Grant applications must be made on the form attached.
2. Grant applications must contain all the items on the Grant Application Checklist.
3. Grant applications that are not complete may be considered non-responsive.
4. Approved applicants may be required to complete additional grant paperwork.

Grant Application Process

1. Application submitted to Planning and Economic Development Department.
2. Staff reviews for completion.
3. Complete applications referred to the Economic Development Commission (EDC).
4. Applicant presents conceptual plan to the EDC at a public meeting.
5. EDC either approves, denies or takes no action on conceptual project.
6. Approved projects sent to Finance and Building staff for approval.
7. Grant agreement signed by applicant and Town of Manchester.

Grant Application Checklist:

- One complete, original signed and dated application submitted to Town.
- One complete copy for the applicant's own records and file.
- One copy of the proposed façade and/or signage to include paint colors, awning and material samples (as appropriate).
- Manchester Collector of Revenue Tax Clearance Certificate.
- 2019 & 2020 Business tax returns appropriate to your business
- Any other documentation showing a negative financial impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A statement of corporate structure/ parent/subsidiary relationships- additional information may be required.
- Two (2) written cost estimates for each component of the project must be submitted. Each estimate should include the contractor's Business name, contact person, address and phone number. The applicant should indicate their preferred vendor. If preferred vendor is not the lowest bidder, please explain why.
- Signed Certification and Affirmation page (attached).
- Property Owner Consent Form (attached).
- All of the above in digital format on a USB flash drive or emailed to planningdept@manchesterct.gov or postmarked or delivered to:

Manchester Planning and Economic Development Department
Business Façade and Signage Improvement Fund
PO Box 191
494 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06045-0191

Town of Manchester
Building Façade and Signage Improvement Fund
Grant Application

All applicants must read and follow the Guidelines section of this Application. The Guidelines section contains information on the Grant Program Parameters, the Grant Application Instructions, and the Grant Application Checklist.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Owner Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Date of Birth

Home Telephone

Business Telephone

Cell Telephone:

Fax

E-Mail

Tenant Name **(if multiple tenants, complete tenant list on page 7 of application)**

Business Location (if different)

City

State

Zip

County

Date business was established

Number of Current Employees: Full Time: _____ Part Time _____

Type of Tenant(s)

Federal ID Number:

Any personal/business judgments, unsettled lawsuits or major disputes? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, please explain.

Has the business, or any principals, been involved in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, please explain.

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes _____ No _____ (If no, mail a copy of Alien Registration Card Form I-151 or I-551.)

FINANCING INFORMATION

Total amount of grant request (maximum \$10,000) \$ _____

Purpose of grant request

Other Sources of Funds:

Have you contacted your bank for financing? Yes _____ No _____ Name of bank _____

Who referred you to the program? _____ Phone _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Town has requested that we obtain the following information for statistical purposes only. Please circle all those that apply.

Property owned by (> 50% Female owned) (> 50% minority owned)

Veteran Status Non-Veteran Vietnam-era Veteran Other Veteran

Ethnicity: African American/Black Asian American Indian/Alaskan Native
Hispanic/Latino Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander White Some Other Race

What is your combined yearly household income as of today? \$ _____

How many are in your household?

CERTIFICATIONS

Please read the following and sign the Application Form. All owners, officers, and partners must sign this application.

The information in this Grant Application is provided for the purpose of applying for funds under the Town of Manchester Business Façade and Signage Improvement Fund. The information is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that personal and/or business information may be requested pursuant to this grant application, and I hereby give my consent for such information to be provided to the Town. I also understand that the Town retains the sole decision as to whether this grant application is approved, disapproved, or modified. It is my right to accept or decline the grant amount, rate and terms approved by the Town of Manchester.

Print Name

Signature Date

Print Name

Signature Date

The Town of Manchester is an Equal Opportunity lender. The Town of Manchester will not discriminate against any grant applicant because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please describe the project, in terms of scope and building improvements as it applies to the mission statement of the program. Include the estimated cost of the project. Include specific information on how the business was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Attach additional pages as necessary.

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SECTION 2. Ability to Pay Full Project Costs
Sources of Funds

Bank Loan \$

Manchester Business Façade and Signage Grant

Cash

Other

Total Funds From All Sources \$

Uses of Funds

Project Construction \$

Total Uses of Funds \$

CERTIFICATION AND AFFIRMATION

- I certify that I am an authorized representative of the Applicant and as such am authorized to make the statement of affirmation contained herein.
- I hereby agree to allow representatives of the Town of Manchester access to the property and applicable records as may be necessary for the administration of the Manchester Business Façade and Signage Improvement Grant Program.
- I certify under penalties of perjury that the above statements and information contained in the application and attachments are complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I attest the information submitted by the Company to the Town of Manchester regarding the Project is consistent with documents provided to lenders, other governmental entities or investors who may provide funding for the Project and that the Town of Manchester is authorized to verify such information from any source.
- On behalf of the Company, we agree to disclose any information to the Town of Manchester regarding any person who owns an ownership interest or who is employed in a management capacity by the Company and who has committed a felony, is presently under indictment or is on parole or probation for a felony; with the understanding that this information will be used by the Town of Manchester solely for performing its due diligence obligations and that such information, if any, will not necessarily disqualify the company unless the Town of Manchester believes such information might impact the Company’s ability to perform its obligations under this Program.
- I attest there are no pending or threatened liens, judgments, or material litigation which is likely to affect the viability of the property as an ongoing concern.
- I certify the property does not have any delinquent non-protested federal, state or local taxes.
- I certify that neither the operations of the property nor the requested funding would violate any existing agreement.
- I certify that the Applicant has not filed (nor is about to file) for bankruptcy.
- I certify the Applicant has not failed to fulfill any obligations under any other state or federal program.
- I certify the signatory is the authorized representative of the applicant and is authorized to make the statement of affirmation contained therein.

Name

Title

Signature

Date

PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT FORM

If the applicant does not own the property, this form must be completed by the property owner and submitted with the application.

The undersigned owner of the existing building located at:

_____ (Address)

certifies that _____ (Applicant) operates -or-

intends to operate a business at the above location.

The undersigned agrees to permit the applicant to implement the improvements listed on the ***Manchester Business Façade and Signage Improvement Fund Form (application)***.

The undersigned hereby waives any claim against the Town of Manchester arising out of the use of these grant funds:

Name	Title
Company (if applicable)	