



Facade Improvement Grant

Barton County, Kansas

Program Summary

The Barton County Facade Improvement Grant (FIG) program provides financial assistance to businesses and property owners for façade improvements to downtown areas to create a visual impact and increase economic prosperity, accessibility, and quality of life in Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend, and Hoisington, Kansas.

Goals

- Demonstrate the power of coordinated, small-scale façade improvements on local economies.
- Increase sales tax revenue by attracting more customers to shop locally.
- Support the attraction of private investment in designated downtown areas by reinvigorating its image as the central location for business.
- Increase property tax base by reinvesting commercial property.
- Help communities retain local talent and recruit external talent through sustainable economic development.
- Spur economic growth in the greater community.
- Generate examples of successful façade improvement projects to serve as a resource library for local communities.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be the property owner or business tenant and in good standing with the Government and local authorities.
- The building must be located in a defined downtown district, as determined by Barton County.
- Governmental entities, public, quasi-public authorities, nonprofits, utility providers, home-based businesses, and storage buildings are ineligible for funding.
- Funds are for existing street-facing commercial properties in the defined community downtown areas of Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend, and Hoisington, Kansas.
- This program gives priority to retailers and restaurants.
- Funds may not be used for work begun before receiving a Grant Award Letter and Grant Agreement from Barton County.
- No more than one property, per application.
- No more than three properties, per year, per owner(s), and shareholders.

Defined Downtown Districts

Barton County has determined that Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend, and Hoisington downtown retail centers are areas of priority funding for purposes of this program. Please see Barton County FIG community maps for more detailed information.

Grant Amount

Applications submitted through December 31, 2021, grants will be provided in the amount of up to 75% of eligible project costs, with a maximum award of \$20,000. Funding amounts are determined based on project size, match, and visual impact.

Starting January 1, 2022, grants will be provided in the amount of up to 50% of eligible project costs, with a maximum award of \$15,000. Funding amounts are determined based on project size, match, and visual impact.

No more than 25% of the award will be allocated towards project signage.

Funding is available until program funds are depleted. Barton County reserve the right to alter, amend, or discontinue the program at any time without written notice. It is the intent of the program to have projects in multiple communities.

Grantees are required to sign a Grant Agreement. This document will establish the conditions of approval and terms of the grant disbursement. In no event will funds be disbursed in a ratio higher than the matching requirements. Proof of costs paid by the applicant will be required before grant funds are to be disbursed.

Grants do not require repayment unless a project is not completed according to the terms established in the Grant Agreement. Grant payments will not be made if exterior improvements deviate from those outlined in the Grant Agreement or have not been previously approved.

The Grantee will submit a Disbursement Request when the project is 100% complete. The Disbursement Request form requires expenditure invoices, receipts, and other information about the project.

Grants are for use on a single property. Property owners seeking to improve multiple properties must submit an application for each property separately. If awarded a FIG, recipients must have the eligible façade improvements completed within one calendar year (365 days) of the date on the signed Grant Agreement. Properties improved using these grant monies are not eligible for an additional FIG until a 36-month period has elapsed from the date of final check disbursement.

In no event will a grant be awarded solely for repairs or improvements if there are already cited code violations at the property requiring corrective actions. In no event will a grant be awarded to only meet the required improvements associated with the proffers of a Conditional Rezoning, the conditions of a Conditional Use Permit, or the requirements of a Special Exception.

Design Guide

- The exterior project should make a noticeable contribution to the revitalization of the downtown areas.
- The exterior project should be compatible with and complement adjacent buildings.

Reimbursable Expenses

- Eligible reimbursable expenses include but are not limited to exterior street-level improvements such as awnings, paint, windows, doors, lighting, railing, fencing, molding, restoration of architectural details, and accessibility ADA compliant projects. Improvements may include exterior masonry work, cornices, shutters, gutters, historical architectural elements.
- In-eligible reimbursable expenses include but are not limited to interior projects, HVAC systems, roofs, landscaping, water spigots, murals, consumable goods, maintenance agreements, security systems, supplies, temporary products, chain-link fence, debris removal, parking surface areas, utility lines, and projects that involve insurance claims.

Permitting and Code Requirements

Grantees must acquire all necessary permits to maintain a safe environment and comply with local ordinances. The Grantee shall conform with all applicable codes, rules, and regulations as applicable in the entity's zoning district. Registered Historical Places must adhere to regulations with the National Register of Historic Places. The Grantee must also adhere to the American with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, Federal and State Civil Rights and Equal Employment opportunity law, Federal and State wage requirements, and agree not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Contractors must complete the project in accordance with all applicable codes, ordinances, and standard engineering practices. Contractors must be properly registered, licensed, and insured as required by law.

Timeframe

Any work done prior to grant approval will not be eligible for reimbursement. The Grantee will have twelve (12) months after the award date to complete the Grant Project. If the Grantee fails to complete the Disbursement Request and includes all receipts within the twelve (12) month completion date, the Grantor will determine whether to fund any portion of the Grant and/or extend the Completion Date deadline to the Grantee.

Change in Project Proposal

Barton County must approve all changes made to the scope of work originally agreed upon prior to work being done. Approval of changes does not alter the original amount of the grant.

Maintenance of Improvements

As part of the grant acceptance process, the Applicant agrees to maintain all improvements made per the approved plans in their finished state.

Application Checklist

Please submit the application and ALL its contents at the same time.

- Application:** (name must match W9 & the deed to the property unless the building tenant is applying to which they will need a letter signed by the property owner)
- Application Narrative:** see application
- Photos:** the building's exterior, including problem areas that will be renovated.
- Quotes:** all project expenditures must be from a Barton County licensed contractor(s) & vendor(s). If you are not able to secure a Barton County contractor or vendor for your project, provide a thorough explanation as to why not.
- Samples & Renderings:** visuals of the finishes and products that will be used in the façade improvement.
- Property Insurance:** must match the building address
- W9:** (name must match W9 & the deed to the property unless the building tenant is applying to which they will need a letter signed by the property owner)

Barton County retains the option to obtain its own cost estimates for any project. Please allow 60-days for your application to be reviewed.

Grant Disbursement Request & Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to track and report indicators as prescribed by Barton County.

The following are reports associated with this Grant.

- Disbursement Request - The Grantee will submit a Disbursement Request when the project is 100% complete. The Disbursement Request form requires expenditure invoices, receipts, and other information about the project. Grants do not require repayment unless a project is not completed according to the terms established in the Grant Agreement. Grant payments will not be made if exterior improvements deviate from those outlined in the Grant Agreement or have not been previously approved.
- Annual Grant Report – The Grantee must complete an Annual Grant Report for two calendar years following the year of Application. It includes information about traffic count, number of employees, sales, and partnerships. Some of the above metrics will vary according to business type.