



Olathe Downtown Small Business Grants Program

Overview:

This program supports local businesses in Olathe's downtown area, aiming to enhance historic structures. It offers two types of grants:

- 1. Storefront Improvement (SI) Grants:** Matches up to 50% of eligible exterior improvements, capped at \$45,000.
- 2. Retail Tenant Improvement (RTI) Grants:** Matches up to 75% of eligible interior improvements, capped at \$45,000.

Eligibility:

Available for private businesses in Olathe's downtown district with 2 to 25 employees. Not applicable to schools, colleges, governments, or elected officials.

Requirements:

Award amounts vary but won't exceed the matching percentage or maximum funding. Eligible projects must comply with Olathe Code and Ordinances.

Project Selection:

Projects are chosen based on positive impact, adherence to city goals, and immediate need. Factors include building condition, code compliance, alignment with city plans, ability to provide matching funds, and feasibility.

Grant Application Cycle:

Applications are accepted year-round until grant funds are exhausted for the fiscal year.

SI Applications (Exterior):

Focuses on storefront facades, emphasizing main entries, windows, lighting, entryway pavers, visibility, art, signage, awnings, and repairs.

RTI Applications (Interior):

Encourages vibrant retail by supporting new/existing businesses. Applicants must demonstrate a need for interior or exterior upgrades.



Application Process:

1. Submit a letter of interest describing the project.
2. Meet with Downtown Development Coordinator for consultation.
3. Submit a complete application package including project details and documentation.
4. Await the minimum 14-day review process.

General Conditions:

Projects must comply with codes, receive necessary approvals, be up to date on all property taxes and special assessments, and be completed within a year. Maintained improvements are required for at least five years.

Disbursement of Funds:

Funds are disbursed upon receipt of paid detailed contractor invoices and permit approvals. In-kind work is not reimbursable. Any changes in scope or materials must be approved in advance.

A Retail Tenant Improvement (RTI) Grant is a funding program for businesses, especially retailers, to improve the inside of their leased commercial space. This grant works by matching the business owner's investment with a certain percentage of funds, up to a set limit.

The goal of an RTI Grant is to support businesses in making their retail spaces better. This can include renovations or upgrades that enhance the appearance, functionality, and safety of the interior. These improvements are important for attracting customers, creating a better shopping experience, and boosting the overall economic activity in a downtown or commercial area.



Here are some things an RTI Grant might cover:

1. Preserving Historic Elements: Keeping and restoring unique architectural details that make the building special.

2. Changing the Inside Structure: Making structural changes inside to better suit the needs of the business.

3. Handling Hazardous Materials: Dealing with any environmental or safety issues inside the space.

4. Meeting Safety Codes: Making sure the business space follows accessibility and safety standards.

5. Upgrading Systems: Installing new equipment, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

6. Covering Design and Permitting Costs: Paying for the planning and regulatory aspects of the project.

Businesses interested in RTI Grants usually need to apply with details about their proposed improvements and budget. The grant is given based on factors like how it will benefit the Downtown area, align with local development goals, and how practical the proposed improvements are.