

Steele County Storefront Renovation Grant

Purpose:

- To encourage the occupancy and renovation of vacant and dilapidated buildings within Steele County
- To improve the image and appearance of Main Streets and high traffic areas throughout Steele County
- To provide employment opportunities within Steele County and stimulate the growth of businesses located here

Eligibility Requirements

The grant program is available to all businesses including apartment complexes and schools located within Steele County. **Only exterior physical improvements are eligible.** Applicants may apply for up to \$1,000 in matching funds. Grants will be awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis. If the finished project does not resemble what was on the grant application or a representative does not feel that significant improvements were made, the grant will be voided. Property must be current on all taxes. Grants are subject to availability of funds. Home based businesses will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Eligible Grant Expenses

Grant funds can be used on building store-fronts only. Examples of eligible store-front improvements under this program include, but are not limited to: painting, signage, doors, windows, lighting, siding, and awnings. The Steele County Job Development Authority will review each grant application individually to determine eligibility. Correction of all code violations is required for improvements utilizing the grant. Grant funds may NOT be used for normal operating expenses.

Matching Grant/Grant Amount

The JDA will contribute \$1 for every \$1 the applicant spends on labor and materials. The total grant award for each business is capped at \$1,000.

Application Deadlines

All applications for the current year grants must be submitted to the Steele County Economic Development Coordinator. This grant is on a first-come-first-serve basis. The Steele County JDA has allocated limited funds toward this program. Once these funds are gone, applications will no longer be accepted.

Application Requirements

The grant application must include the following information:

- Description of improvement- may include a representation of desired result
- Estimated cost
- Estimated start and completion dates

If the work will be completed by a contractor, include an actual price quote from the contractor. If the applicant will be completing his or her own work, please include pricing information from the vendor(s) chosen to supply the materials.

Grant Process

1. Applications will be reviewed by Steele County JDA representatives. Applications must be submitted and approved **PRIOR** to any construction being done.
2. All work must be completed by December 31, of current year or the JDA reserves the right to revoke the grant.
3. In order to receive reimbursement, all receipts must be submitted with proof of payment (i.e. cancelled checks) from a contractor or vendor.
4. Any improvements completed under the program shall become permanent fixtures of the building. They may not be removed by the business owner or the building owner in the event of the closing or sale of the business or the sale of the building without the written consent of the SCJDA. This provision shall not apply if further renovations are made to the building to enhance the community.
5. If the applicant performs the work without a licensed contractor, he or she will have to hire a licensed contractor for certification of meeting all code requirements.

**STEELE COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STOREFRONT GRANT APPLICATION**

2018

Application Date _____

Name of Business _____

Tax Identification Number _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Contact Person _____

Cell Number _____ Email _____

Contact Person _____

Cell Number _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Name of Project _____

Estimated Project Cost _____

Amounty of Grant Applying for _____

Estimated Start Date _____ Esitimated Completion Date _____
(please attach bids to the application)

List or attach the detailed project budget _____

Vendor/Contractor	Brief Description (Supplies or Labor)	Quote \$\$

