

Downtown Enhancement and Safety Grant

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Downtown Enhancement and Safety Grant is to provide City of Medicine Hat funds to support commercial property owners and/or their tenant(s)/business owners with permanent property improvements that enhance security and crime prevention measures. This program is a 50% matching grant of eligible, pre-approved, pre-tax expenses for a minimum grant of \$250 and up to a maximum grant of \$5,000. A total of \$70,000 is available for 2026.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Applications will be accepted until such time as the program is fully subscribed or the program is closed at City Council's direction.
- Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis via completion of online application form through Medicine Hat Economic Development website.
- Applicants must ensure that the application form is complete including required support documents. Additional requirements and/or support documents may be required on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the City Manager or delegate based on the nature of the work proposed. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.
- One of the following project costs documentations will be required:
 - A detailed contractor estimate or if you are directly purchasing material and supplies, you may submit a project budget with product information and pricing in lieu of a contractor estimate (no labour costs will be reimbursed)
- Once an application is deemed complete by the City Manager or delegate, the application will be time stamped and approved funding will be held for the project for a period of one year.

- Retroactive funding will not be permitted; expenses incurred prior to grant approval will not be eligible for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

- A project shall consist of permanent security and safety enhancements such as exterior security lighting, fencing, shutters, shatter-proof glass, bars, gates or security cameras. This list is not all-encompassing, other improvements may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- A project shall be carried out on private property located within the defined boundary map. (map on page 5)
- Applicants must have an ownership interest in the eligible property and/or be a commercial tenant with a current City of Medicine Hat business license.
 - If applicant is not the registered owner, you will be required to provide a signed approval letter from building owner or landlord regarding the project.
- Property or applicant must not be in arrears in municipal taxes, municipal utilities or any other municipal charge.
- Ineligible expenses include:
 - a) Ongoing operation, general maintenance and life cycle costs;
 - b) Non-permanent finishes and equipment including rentals;
 - c) Construction equipment and related hardware, tools, machinery;
 - d) Salaries and wages;
 - e) Construction insurance and permits;
 - f) Administration, financial reporting, fundraising, preparing the application, and similar activities; and
 - g) Expenses incurred prior to date of grant application approval.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The Downtown Enhancement and Safety Grant is a 50% matching grant for eligible, pre-tax and pre-approved costs related to permanent property improvements that enhance security and crime prevention measures for commercial properties and their business tenants in a prescribed area within the City of Medicine Hat; (noted by the boundary map)
- Funding is capped at \$5,000 per eligible applicant (\$10,000 total pre-tax project cost). Minimum application value is \$250 (\$500 total pre-tax project cost);
- Only one application per business will be accepted;
- Successful applicants have one year to complete their project following project approval. All invoices must be dated within the one-year time frame;
- Retroactive funding shall not be permitted; eligible projects shall only commence following an approved application by the City Manager or delegate;
- Projects must receive all necessary approvals including but not limited to: Development Permits, Building Permits, etc. If any approvals or permits lapse, project eligibility for funding will cease, application will be cancelled, and a new application will be required to be submitted;
- "Before" & "After" Photos:
 - Grant Application Submission: the applicant is required to include current "before" photos of where the project is to take place,
 - Final Report & Payment Request: the applicant is required to include "after" photos showing the finished project; and,

- Final Report Requirements: Funding will be issued following the approval of the project Final Report and any necessary inspections by the City Manager or delegate to confirm completion. The Final Report must include:
 - Applicable invoices;
 - Proof of payment of all invoices (scan/copy of cleared cheques, successful EFT's, itemized receipts showing debit/credit/cash transaction); and
 - "After" photos.
- Applicants will have 90 days from project completion to submit a final report and request payment. Failure to submit a final report within 90 days of project completion will null/void the application.

