



FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

The program is structured as a 90/10 matching grant for improvements to the exterior, and qualifying interior upgrades of commercial properties within the city limits of Smithville, Texas. **Grant recipients must be a member in good standing of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce (SACOC) and located within the city limits.** The Façade Grant Committee, comprised of the SACOC Board, is herein referred to as the "Committee."

The intent of the program is to:

- Encourage commercial property owners to make visible improvements to their businesses and implement measures that comply with city codes and ordinances such as ADA regulations.
- Enhance the unique character and aesthetic appearance of commercial properties.
- Promote and maintain the architectural beauty of commercial properties in the downtown commercial district

Grant recipients will be reimbursed for ninety percent (90%) of the cost of eligible expenses up to \$3,500.00 upon satisfactory completion of the work.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

Any for-profit business in good standing as a member of the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce that owns or leases a commercial property within the city limits of Smithville is eligible to apply for the program. Businesses leasing the property must have permission from the owner in writing to submit this application.

To be eligible for reimbursement, all exterior improvements must be visible from the city's right-of-way, and both interior and exterior projects inspected by the Committee, or city representative, such as the city code inspector, for final approval prior to reimbursement.

Examples of eligible improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Repairs or improvements to the exterior siding or roofing.
- Cleaning, repainting, or removing paint or stucco from exterior brick.
- Restoring original wood windows, or other specified window types.
- Fresh paint.
- A new or upgraded sign that complies with City ordinance.
- Repairs or repainting of outside attachments such as staircases or fire escapes.
- Replacing or repairing an existing awning.

- Installing or upgrading doors, steps, railings, and other components of the building to comply with ADA regulations.

The maximum contribution for each grant recipient is \$3,500.00

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS and TIMELINE:

The deadline to apply for the program is May 31, 2026. Projects began on or after January 1, 2026 may qualify if, a). a completed application is submitted with a clear and detailed description of the project scope, with photos, along with a breakdown of proposed project costs b). The project is currently underway with a project completion deadline of September 30, 2026.

All work must comply with the City's Code of Ordinances and permitting requirements.

Any projects completed in the city's Historic Commercial District must consult with the Historic Preservation and Design Standards Committee and may be required to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The applicant must submit a detailed estimate of the work to be performed by an established contractor, and receipts for all work for which they wish to be reimbursed. Only eligible expenses will be reimbursed.

Funds will be reimbursed to the applicant upon successful and satisfactory completion of the approved work by the Committee, along with photos of the completed project.

Application Review Process:

Grant recipients within the Smithville Historic Commercial District will be approved by the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board and the City of Smithville Historic Preservation and Design Standards Committee, herein referred to as the "Committee."

When determining which applications will receive funding, priority will be given to:

- Projects that demonstrate the greatest overall need or impact of a project that will meet key community needs.
- Projects with outcomes that provide a specific, measurable, and positive change that benefits the community, such as beautification or aesthetic improvements.
- Buildings with no outstanding code violations. Please indicate on your application if the project's completion is intended to bring the property into compliance with city regulations.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

The application is available on the Chamber of Commerce website at www.smithvilletx.org or a paper version can be picked up at the Chamber offices, 102 NE 1st. Street.

The deadline to apply is May 31, 2026 4:00pm.

Please include all relevant information in your application, including a written summary of the request, a cost estimate of the proposed work and photographs of the project location.

You may submit your application by mail, in person or via e-mail to www.smithvilletx.org. If applying via email, please include 'FAÇADE GRANT' in the subject line. If applying via mail, send it to Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 716, Smithville, TX 78957. If submitting in person, bring to 102 NE 1st St. in Smithville.

CONTACT US:

Please feel free to call or e-mail or come by with any questions:

Cathy Meek, SACOC Chair
Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 716/100 Main Street
Smithville, TX 78957
(512) 237-2313

APPLICATION

SECTION 1:

Applicant Name: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Business Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Building Owner (if different from applicant): _____

Type of Work (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh coat of paint | <input type="checkbox"/> Siding Repair/Replacement | <input type="checkbox"/> Roof Repair/Replacement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry: Cleaning/Paint or stucco removal | | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry: Repointing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Window Repair/Replacement | <input type="checkbox"/> New Sign | <input type="checkbox"/> Awning Repair/Replacement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

SECTION 2:

What is the current use of property? _____

What year was the structure built? _____

Is the Property in the Historic Commercial District? Yes No

Is the property currently owner-occupied, or leased? Yes No

Are there any outstanding code violations for this property? Yes No

Is the applicant a member in good standing with the Chamber? Yes No

Has the applicant applied for and received all necessary permits from the city for this project?
(Proof required prior to approval of application): Yes No

SECTION 3:

Please provide details of all planned improvements. Please include photographs of existing conditions that highlight the proposed work. Attach additional sheets if necessary: _____

Are all proposed exterior improvements visible from the public right-of-way? Yes No

What is the total anticipated cost of all proposed improvements? _____

Total façade improvement grant monies requested? _____

Applicant's Signature

Date

Building Owner's Signature (if different from applicant)

Date