



Business Storefront Incentive Program

Purpose:

The Business Storefront Incentive Program is a grant program administered by the La Feria Economic Development Corporation (LFEDC) to help property owners and businesses improve the overall image and enhance economic vitality in La Feria. The purpose of the Program is to provide permanent, affixed improvements to improved commercial properties within the city limits and that are in good standing with the City of La Feria, as explained below. Owners and tenants may be eligible for a reimbursement grant for monies used to improve commercial building exteriors, in order to promote new or expanded business development. Grants may be awarded to reimburse up to 50% (maximum \$10,000 total) of expended funds for eligible renovations.

Types of Grants Available

Sign Grants:

- Grant recipients must match expenditures 50/50 up to the maximum Grant amount of \$3,750.
- New sign structures, or replacement or repair of existing signs, are eligible.
- Signs must consist of individual letters made of metal, plastic, or wood. Signs may include neon lighting, backlighting, or plastic faces. Plywood signs are not permitted.
- All signs shall be subject to sign permits and review as provided in the City of La Feria sign ordinance.

Storefront Grants:

- Grant recipients must match expenditures 50/50 up to the maximum Grant amount of \$7,500.
- Exterior improvements such as awnings, sidewalk repairs, painting, murals, and the installation of new doors, windows, drive through and other improvements are eligible.
- Roof repairs and replacement of broken glass in windows or doors are not eligible.
- All storefront improvements shall be subject to building permits and review as provided in the City of La Feria Code of Ordinances.

Landscaping Grants:

- Grant recipients must match expenditures 50/50 up to the maximum Grant amount of \$3,750.
- Permanent landscaping improvements visible to traffic and in accordance with the City of La Feria landscaping ordinance are eligible.
- All landscaping improvements shall be subject to building permits and review as provided in the City of La Feria ordinances.

Interior Improvements Grants:

- Grant recipients must match expenditures 50/50 up to the maximum Grant amount of \$5,000.
- Interior improvements such as flooring, walls, painting, trim, texture, countertops, furnishings, ceilings, and similar improvements are eligible.
- Electrical, lighting, plumbing, mechanical, fire alarms, sprinklers, and fire suppression installation/repairs are not eligible.
- All interior improvements shall be subject to building permits and review as provided in the City of La Feria Code of Ordinances.

Requirements for all grants:

- To receive grant funding, proposed projects must be found by the EDC Board to promote new or expanded business development.
- Awarded projects will be subject to a separate Performance Agreement approved by the EDC Board.
- The amount of any awarded grant shall equal 50% of lowest proposal amount, pre-tax, up to the maximum Grant amount.
- Applicants are eligible for more than one of each type of Grant per fiscal year (October - September of any given year), provided that the total amount of grant funds do not exceed \$10,000.

How to Apply

- Submit the application provided to the La Feria Economic Development Corporation at **115 E. Commercial Ave., La Feria, Texas 78550** or **frios@cityoflaferia.com**.
- A minimum of three (3) contractor bids are required to be provided with each Grant application.
- Applications should also include design layouts showing dimensions, proposed design and colors, and schematic features.
- All applications must be signed by the property owner.

Award Process

- The EDC will review submitted applications at the next scheduled Board meeting.
- Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the EDC. Recipients will be notified within 48 hours of the Board's decision.
- The EDC reserves the right to make design recommendations.
- Grants must be approved before the described work begins.
- Any changes to the design and scope of the project after any grant is approved may jeopardize funding.
- Grant funds will be issued on a reimbursement basis, upon submission of itemized receipts to the EDC, and will not be issued until the work required for the selected grant(s) is complete.
- If a grant is approved and subsequently awarded in accordance with the provisions herein, but the related improvements are altered in any manner (other than through customary maintenance and repair) within one year of completion, the recipient may be required to repay all or a portion of the grant funds.

LA FERIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BUSINESS STOREFRONT INCENTIVE PROGRAM
APPLICATION

Name of Business	
Applicant Name	
Property Address	
Mailing Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Type of Project:

☐ Sign ☐ Storefront ☐ Landscaping ☐ Interior

Description of Proposed Improvements: _____

Name of Contractor:

Amount of Bids:

- | | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|
| 1. | _____ | \$ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | \$ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | \$ | _____ |

I have read and understand the information on the Business Storefront Incentive Program. I understand that any substantial changes to the project after the grant is approved may jeopardize funding. I further agree that if a grant is awarded and the area of improvement is altered beyond regular maintenance and repair within one year of completion, I will reimburse the EDC the full amount of the grant.

Contact Person for this project:

Signature

Property Owner Signature

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date

FOR STAFF USE

Staff Recommendation: _____

Grant Approved: _____ **Name of Vendor Approved:** _____

Grant amount to be paid to: Business: _____ **Vendor:** _____ **Meeting Date:** _____