

CHINATOWN AND DOWNTOWN FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, in partnership with the City of Fresno is providing a total of \$360,000 for façade improvements under the City of Fresno General Fund. The intent is to strengthen the economic vitality of Fresno by improving the exterior physical appearance of commercial businesses and non-profits within the eligible areas in Chinatown and Downtown.

The program is designed to fund commercial façade improvements visible from public right-of-way.



APPLY FOR THE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The program provides funding for façade improvement projects to approved applicants interested in enhancing existing business space exterior. Grant proceeds will be used for labor and materials directly related to the façade project. Upon approval, the grants will reimburse up to \$20,000 after CITY & FAHF deems the project complete and verify submitted invoices and proof of payments. Approved applicants must provide a 25% match of the total approved grant amount.

Applications shall be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Priority will be given to businesses in the Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIGC Project Boundary). New construction is not eligible in this grant program.

Along with your application you will need to upload the following documents:

- Applicant's Active City of Fresno Business Tax Certificate
- If a Non-profit, IRS Determination Letter
- Signed Letter of Approval from the Property Owner

\$20,000

Maximum Reimbursement
with a 25% match which can be
6-months retroactive

Once approved, advancement of 50% of the grant amount will be provided to qualified businesses.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN
OCTOBER 1ST AT 10AM**

www.fresnoahf.org/chinatowndowntownfacade

farechiga@fresnodbh.org

(559) 222-8705

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Must have an active Business Tax Certificate and be in good standing with the City of Fresno.
2. Business/Nonprofits must be currently in operation at the qualified location. Refer to the map below.
3. A 25% match is required which can be fulfilled retroactively 6 months from the application submission date. Proper documentation must be provided including, but not limited to, proof of purchase, payment, and/or invoices.
4. Priority will be given to businesses in the Infill Infrastructure Grant – Catalytics Qualifying Area (IIGC Project Boundary) identified on the map below.
5. MUST have 75 or fewer employees. An employee working 40 hours per week equals 1.0 FTE; Employee working 20 hours per week equals .5 PTE.
6. If a Non-profit, MUST submit IRS Determination Letter and certification of good standing with the state of California.
7. MUST submit a signed letter of approval from the building owner approving the façade project for those tenants with long-term leases.
8. All work must be done by a contractor licensed by the State Contractors License Board, have a valid City of Fresno Tax Certificate and obtained all needed permits for the project(s).
9. MUST submit licensed contractor information for verification to FAHF before the project start date.
10. MUST submit proof of insurance for the licensed contractor before the project start date.
11. MUST commence the façade project after grant award confirmation is received and complete project by September 2025.
12. MUST submit before and after pictures.
13. Preference will be given to locally owned and operated applicants.
14. Only EXTERIOR façade renovations of EXISTING businesses or nonprofits are eligible.
15. Historic properties must comply with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures and receive approval from the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Commission prior to funding.
16. Businesses owned (in whole or part) by City of Fresno Staff, Council members, Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation Staff, or their spouses or domestic partners are NOT eligible.

The following types of businesses are not eligible to receive grant funds:

- Smoke Shops
- Banks
- Cannabis
- Law Firms
- Liquor Stores
- Government Offices

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STAGE 2: DOCUMENTATION

Along with your application you will need to upload the following documents:

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Upon confirmation of eligibility, you will be required to submit the following documents within TWO WEEKS time to determine grant approval:

- Executed Property Lease from all applicants - properties owned by the small business applicant would need to show proof of ownership.
- Business Owner and Property Owner Photo ID.
- If a Non-profit, a certification of good standing with the state of California.
- Proof of Insurance for Licensed Contractor.
- Licensed Contractor City of Fresno Business Tax Certificate.
- Façade Project Plan signed by Property Owner, Business Owner(s), & License Contractor including a project budget.
- Building Pictures: Before starting the project and After project is completed.
- Façade Grant Agreement between FAHF and Recipient.
- Signed W9.
- ACH Form.
- Voided Check.
- If Historic Building, you must submit the City of Fresno Historic Preservation Commission Project Approval Letter.

Any entity changes, such as name, formation or ownership, must be disclosed during the second stage of the application.

**FOR ANY QUESTIONS
CONTACT:**

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TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS

ELIGIBLE TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS

All improvements shall conform to City building codes, zoning ordinances, and applicable design guidelines. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to:

1. Removal of old signs, awnings, and other exterior clutter
2. Exterior painting
3. Repair or replacement of exterior siding (including the construction of new façade elements and architectural details)
4. Installation of new entry doors and/or ramps that meet ADA accessibility requirements
5. Installation of display windows
6. Installation of new awnings, canopies, & marquees over windows and entries
7. Installation of new signs or repairs of current signs
8. Installation of new exterior lighting
9. Installation of permanent landscaping
10. Construction of outdoor dining or gathering spaces
11. Repairs or replacement of existing exterior fencing

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MAP OF ELIGIBLE AREAS



Scan the QR Code to check if your business is located in the eligible area:

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DEADLINES & IMPORTANT DATES

IMPORTANT DATES

- Application opens October 1, 2024 at 10:00 am
- Application closes November 13, 2024 at 03:00pm
- Project check-in 60 days after start date
- Site visits will be performed to ensure project progression

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