



GOOD NEIGHBOR GRANT

Program Administered by:

Center City Development Corporation (CCDC)

114 North Main Street

Memphis, TN 38103

(901) 575-0540

DowntownMemphisCommission.com

Updated: May 23, 2025



GOOD NEIGHBOR GRANT

The Good Neighbor Grant is a special program offered by the Downtown Memphis Commission (DMC) and the Center City Development Corporation (CCDC) in partnership with the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and the Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC). This grant is designed to help neighborhoods fight the appearance of blight and to provide commercial property owners and businesses the resources to make exterior improvements to their property.

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

- Encourage property investment in downtown and downtown-adjacent neighborhoods.
- Foster a consistent, vibrant, and safe pedestrian experience along key commercial corridors.
- Strengthen or restore the character of important places within the community.
- Increase the longevity of locally owned businesses.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS GRANT?

In general, building and site improvements that support the longevity of the business and improve the pedestrian experience are potentially eligible for grant funding. Improvements not visible from the street or public sidewalk are largely ineligible. Also, in-kind labor, business operation costs, purchase of property or equipment, and other expenses not directly related to improving the exterior appearance of the building or site are ineligible.

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

- Exterior building repairs
- Exterior painting
- Tuck-pointing & masonry repair
- Windows & doors
- Commercial storefronts
- High-quality exterior signage, canopies, and awnings
- New fencing (wrought iron or similar quality)
- Exterior lighting
- Sidewalk repair & landscaping

- Removal of inappropriate site features (razor wire, chain link fences, window bars)
- Architecture, design, & permitting fees for exterior work
- Public art

MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT & APPLICATION CYCLE:

For each project, the maximum total grant is \$25,000. Additional resources may be available for projects located in the Uptown TIF boundary based on availability of CRA funding. The actual amount of each grant will vary by project and will be based on the list of eligible improvements. The grant requires a financial contribution from the applicant. The grant will only cover up to 90% of the total project cost. To be eligible for this grant, your project must be located within the Good Neighbor focus areas (see map in Appendix II). Projects located within the Uptown boundary may be eligible to apply for separate resources through the CRA.

The Good Neighbor Grant is available beginning January 1, 2022. The DMC & CCDC will provide administrative support to review all projects within the focus areas in partnership with our program partners. All approvals are contingent upon available funding in conjunction with our project partners.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Good Neighbor Grant prioritizes commercial buildings. Please note that you must be current on your taxes in order to be eligible for this grant. Property owners and/or tenants with a signed lease are eligible to apply. Unfortunately, single-family homes are not eligible.

READY TO APPLY OR HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Brian Mykulyn, Planning Manager
mykulyn@downtownmemphis.com
(901) 575-0565

HOW DO I APPLY?

Step 1: Submit your project idea

Submit a letter or email to DMC staff describing your interest in the Good Neighbor Grant. Please include the following information:

- a. Property address
- b. Describe your project idea and what kind of improvements you want to make
- c. Include photograph(s) showing how the building or site looks today
- d. Include the name, phone number and email address of the main contact person who is interested in applying for the grant

Step 2: Prepare a project budget and simple design plans

If DMC staff determines that your project idea is potentially eligible for the grant, the next step is for the applicant to prepare an itemized budget and basic drawings that show the proposed work.

Step 3: Submit an application and request approval at the monthly CCDC Meeting

Once DMC staff reviews and accepts the project scope of work and budget, you can submit a formal grant application (see Appendix I). The application will then be placed on the next Center City Development Corporation (CCDC) public meeting agenda. The CCDC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM in the DMC Conference Room, 114 N. Main Street. Please plan on attending the CCDC meeting when your project is on the agenda.

The application deadline for each CCDC meeting is by 4:00 PM, three (3) weeks prior to the meeting date. See Appendix I for the grant application.

Staff will coordinate with the applicant to request approval from the Design Review Board (DRB) concurrently with the CCDC review process.

Step 4: Start of Work

Following CCDC and DRB approval, DMC staff will review the final scope of work and the applicant will be given the notice to proceed and can hire the general contractor and sub-contractors. **After the project is finished, grant funds will be disbursed from the DMC to the general contractor upon receipt of final invoice(s) and a satisfactory inspection of the completed work.** Alternatively, the applicant can pay the general contractor directly and the DMC will reimburse

after we review receipts and inspect the work. In-kind work performed by the applicant will not be eligible for reimbursement.

The applicant is responsible for documenting all expenses and submitting receipts to the DMC after the project is complete. All work must be consistent with the approved grant application and the DMC must approve any changes in work scope or materials in advance of that work being performed.

Please note that an approved grant may be canceled if your project has not started within six months of the date it was approved. The project must be completed within one year of the date it was approved by the CCDC.

APPENDIX I: GRANT APPLICATION

Date of Application:		
Building/Property Address:		
Applicant's Name:		
Ownership Status: (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property <input type="checkbox"/> I am purchasing the property <input type="checkbox"/> I lease the property <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
If you lease the property, when does your lease expire?		
Primary Project Contact:	Name:	
	Phone:	Email:
	Mailing Address:	
Proposed Improvements: (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Exterior building repair <input type="checkbox"/> Tuck-pointing/masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior painting <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior signage <input type="checkbox"/> New awning(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalk repair <input type="checkbox"/> Door repair/replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Window repair/replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Storefront repair/replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior lighting <input type="checkbox"/> Public art <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe below)
If you listed <i>Other</i> above, Please briefly describe		
Project Goals: Why are you applying for the grant?		

What positive impacts do you anticipate for your business and the neighborhood?	
Architect (if applicable)	Name: _____ Phone: _____ Company: _____
Total Project Budget:	
Total Grant Requested:	
Property Owner: (If not the applicant)	Name: _____
	Phone: _____ Email: _____
	Mailing Address: _____
Applicant's Certification:	<p>This application is made in order to induce the CCDC to grant financial incentives to the applicant. The applicant hereby represents that all statements contained herein are true and correct. All information materially significant to the CCDC in its consideration of the application is included. The applicant acknowledges that it has reviewed the descriptions of the CCDC financial program for which it is applying and agrees to comply with those policies. The applicant shall also be required to show best faith efforts with regard to the employment of minority contractors. The applicant specifically agrees to pay all reasonable costs, fees and expenses incurred by the CCDC whether or not the incentive is granted or project completed.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>

Attachments

In addition to this completed and signed application, don't forget to include the following attachments when you submit your grant request:

- Photograph(s) showing all sides of the building or property facing a public street

- Drawing(s) showing proposed improvements
- Itemized budget for proposed improvements (example attached)
- Lease agreement and approval letter from property owner (if applicable)

APPENDIX II: GOOD NEIGHBOR FOCUS AREA

