



Community Façade Grant Program

General Purpose and Objectives: The Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation (GBEDF), in partnership with Mississippi Power and the City of Biloxi, has established the Community Façade Grant Program for commercial businesses along the Pass Road and Division Street corridors. The Community Façade Grant Program is designed to encourage private investment in the redevelopment, revitalization, and rehabilitation of commercial buildings by providing funding for commercial property and/or business owners' subsidy assistance to rehabilitate and upgrade the facades and exterior features of their buildings.

The program will provide grants up to 50% of eligible costs, up to \$5,000. The grants will be awarded on a competitive, first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to projects that have a significant economic impact. Not all applications will be funded. The Façade Grant Review Committee (FGRC) has complete authority and final decision for all awards. This program will continue as long as funds are available.

Examples of reimbursement:

- Awning Project Improvement submitted and verified cost for a total of \$ 4,000.00, reimbursement to be issued: \$ 2,000.00
- Façade Mural & Lighting Improvement submitted and verified cost for a total of \$8,000.00, reimbursement to be issued: \$ 4,000.00

Who is Eligible?

- Building must be in Mississippi Power service territory, with electric service provided by Mississippi Power.
- Building must be located in the Pass Road or Division Street Corridor in Biloxi (maps attached).
- Building must be occupied or in the process of being occupied. If unoccupied at the time of application, the applicant has 6 months to obtain and provide to GBEDF relevant permits (i.e. Certificate of Occupancy)
- Applicant must have a current business license, must be up-to-date on all permits, licenses, and taxes (including property tax and the City's Business License) before submission of application.
- Applicant must comply with all state and local laws and regulations on licensing and permits.
- If the applicant is not the building owner, a signed and notarized letter granting permission from the building owner **must be provided with the application.**

(a) By applying, applicants certify that the information submitted is true, complete, and accurate to the best of the applicant's knowledge. (b) All submitted information will be kept confidential. (c) Before-and-after project photographs provided to the Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation and Mississippi Power may be used without restriction to promote the grant program.



Eligible Cost and Activities (Eligible costs/expenses may include, but are not limited to, the following):

- Architectural design, drawings, repair/replacement of storefront windows and doors, signs and graphics on the façade, awnings and canopies, exterior lighting, murals, railings, ironwork, and removal of barriers to access for people with disabilities

Ineligible Costs and Activities (Ineligible costs/expenses may include, but are not limited to, the following):

- Residential property
- Roof replacement and repair
- Work to the rear façade, or alley façade, or work to a secondary façade not plainly visible from a main commercial thoroughfare
- Where the applicant is the contractor or supplier: profits and overhead are not eligible expenditures
- Free-standing signage

Application Process:

- The Community Façade Grant Program Application must be legibly completed in its entirety.
- Submit completed application and all required documentation and information to Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation by email GreaterBiloxiEDF@gmail.com. Please note that the review process for applications may take up to 60 days.
- The grant committee will determine the eligibility of all applicants. Grants are awarded at the discretion of the committee. If approved, applicants understand that all work performed is subject to development standards, building and property codes, and permit requirements.
- Grant recipients will be notified by email.
- Application for the grant permits the Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation and/or Mississippi Power staff or Committee Members to visit the property/business for evaluation, with reasonable notice to the Applicant.
- The grant recipient will photograph their business before and after the project is completed for the purpose of documenting grant expenditures. These photographs will be provided to the Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation and Mississippi Power and may be used without restriction to promote the grant program.

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- All grant-supported work shall be completed within time defined by the Grant Agreement, **not to exceed 6 months after the grant is approved**. Project will be reassessed for appreciable progress at this time if work is not complete, and deadline may be extended with approval of the Grant Committee. Once work is completed, grantee must submit paid receipts for eligible expenses.
- Upon completion of the project, approved grant recipients must submit proof for all eligible expenses as listed on the submitted grant application for review. Once verification is completed and approved, the applicant will be awarded the Façade Grant Funds 30 days after receipt of the completed submission packet.
- The decision of the grant committee will be final.

Community Façade Grant Indemnity

Applicant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation and Mississippi Power, its successors and assigns, from and against any third-party claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable legal fees and expenses arising out of or related to Recipient's use of the grant funds and any other obligations and representations under this Agreement.

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