



**CITY OF EAST POINT
SUPPLEMENTAL FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION**

The City of East Point's citywide grant allocation of \$600,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds aims to support and promote sustainable economic development within Wards A, B, C, D and the Downtown Central Business District of East Point, Georgia (the "City"), through its Commercial Beautification Façade Grant Program. This application is in consideration of qualified economic development projects that commit to investing significant capital in physical improvements to existing buildings that create or retain jobs throughout the city as well as to revitalize and improve the Downtown Central Business District of the City. The city is prepared to provide monetary incentives to offset a portion of the cost of exterior building façade renovations including exterior façade improvements.

Grant funding of \$600,000 will be allocated to building rehabilitation/ renovation projects in the form of a 75/25 matching grant to property owners with a maximum grant funding request not to exceed \$70,000. For example, if an applicant is approved for the program and undertakes \$10,000 of improvements, the amount of assistance made available would be for \$7,500. If they undertake \$40,000 in improvements, the maximum amount of assistance would be \$30,000. Applicants must propose a project in an amount not lower than \$3,000 per project.

Eligibility

1. Open to commercial property owners in the City of East Point, is less than 125,000 sf and zoned "commercial." The property must be within the City of East Point Ward District (A, B, C or D) and /or Downtown Central Business District boundaries.
2. Applicant must present a detailed plan/submission package outlining the eligible improvements by the application deadline of **February 21, 2025**. Refer to the City's website, Checklist, Scoring Criteria and FAQ's page for all the pertinent information regarding this program.
3. Applicant must be in good standing (no outstanding fees, not delinquent on payments of any taxes or fines at the time of application).
4. Priority will be given to exterior facade improvements designed to increase pedestrian activity, and the use of traditional storefronts.
5. Grant funds are made available for eligible improvements to business facades that are easily visible from the public right-of-way, such as those that face a public street or a public parking area.
6. Eligible participants include commercial and mixed-use property owners.
7. No grants will be awarded for work that has already been done or for work that is covered by insurance.
8. Proposed work must follow all applicable local zoning, life safety, building codes, and City of East Point ordinances.
9. Eligible work includes: • Exterior painting • Exterior lighting and lighting fixtures • Canopies and awnings, • Masonry cleaning, • Exterior walls/materials – replacement/uncovering of architectural features • Signs with historical significance • Window and door replacements • Fencing or landscaping (decorative planters, parking lot visual buffers, re-topping/re-stripping, addition of planting islands in parking lots, etc.).

Ineligible Improvements

10. Ineligible improvements include: • Interior work, architectural design and planning services, work in progress or completed prior to preliminary approval • Billboards and multiple message signs (Neon or LED Signage) • Roofing • Mechanicals and HVAC systems, plumbing • New construction • Temporary, or

TV/satellite equipment • Interior window displays • Security systems (including metal roll down gates, window/door bars, etc.) • Trash and mechanical enclosures • Tinting or any mechanism that inhibits visibility through windows • Improvement to a building side not visible from the main street • Properties in foreclosure, listed for sale, under contract or planning to be sold, or that will be within the next 12 months.

Application Process and Timeline

11. Application will open on January 15, 2025 and must be received by close of business **February 21, 2025**. Selected applicants will be notified by the end of February/early March 2025. All awardees must enter into a signed agreement to receive the project award.

12. Projects will be reviewed after all submissions are received. Funding levels for this program are determined by the Evaluation Committee. Once funding is exhausted, the Façade Grant will end. Applications will be evaluated based on impact and feasibility.

13. Work may not begin until application is approved by the Evaluation Committee, but must begin within 60 days of approval notification and the requirements of all ordinances of the City of East Point relating to permitting, zoning, construction and renovation requirements have been met. Permit fees for the approved projects shall be waived.

14. After portions of the work are completed, grant reimbursement requests shall be made via the reimbursement form provided by the City at least two weeks prior to the time of need.

15. The grant reimbursement request is subject to denial if all applicable procedures are not followed.

16. The grant is void if approved work is not completed within six months of approval by the Evaluation Committee. If a given grant project has not been completed within six months of date of the approval, the grant applicant shall be permitted to apply for an extension of time. Additional 60-day extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee. Any changes in the approved work must be reapproved by the Evaluation Committee.

17. The City in terms of its discretion and in considering all factors regarding any application may approve or deny any application made pursuant to this grant program.

18. The City requires applicants (owners) to execute a façade or non-disturbance agreement restricting Façade changes for a period of five (5) years absent written approval from City as to proposed changes.

19. The property, which has been the subject of an approved façade grant, will not be eligible for any additional grant on such property until five (5) years after projects' completion.

20. Approval of a façade grant does not constitute nor imply that the City has approved any building or construction permit. • The project must be completed according to the design submitted (including materials, colors, awnings, etc.) and in accordance with all applicable Building Permit requirements, and all other requirements of the City of East Point. • All expenditures must be documented. Upon project completion, invoices, receipts and/or cancelled checks related to façade improvements must be submitted, together with a copy of the building permit (if applicable), and a digital photo of the completed projects shall be submitted to the City. • Reimbursements may be requested in phases or “pay-as-you-go” approach with supporting documentation of completed work. • Once the approved project has been completed and meets compliance with these requirements, the applicant must submit any outstanding copies of cost documentation (receipts, etc.) along with copies of all cleared checks to the City of East Point for reimbursement. Reimbursement will be made to applicants within 10 business days of receipt of project payment documents, after the applicant has provided a current W9 and has been set-up in the City's vendor system.

21. All work must be signed off/finalized, where applicable, before final payment shall be made. The City of East Point, and its representatives, contractors, subsidiaries, etc., shall have no liability related to this project nor any liability or damages related to the workmanship, design, or construction of this project.