

Frequently Asked Questions: Steelyard TIF Grant

Support

I have questions about my grant application. Who do I contact?

Applicants should contact their respective regional Neighborhood Investment Manager listed at this link: [Leadership & Staff / City of Cleveland Economic Development](#). If unsure of which neighborhood they fall under, applicants should contact gharrison@clevelandohio.gov.

Timeline and Awards

How are grant amounts calculated?

Steelyard TIF Grant funding is calculated by the project budget submitted in the application. Small Business Grants range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Placemaking Grants amount to a maximum of \$15,000. Approximate neighborhood funds (subject to change) are as follows:

- Ohio City (\$42,796)
- Tremont (\$57,006)
- Clark-Metro (\$57,955)
- Old Brooklyn (\$81,815)
- Slavic Village (\$142,640)
- Lorain Station (\$132,812)

How are neighborhood funds determined?

Funds for this program are a result of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) placed on Steelyard Commons in 2006. Remaining funds in each of the six eligible neighborhoods is dependent on the number and budget of awarded projects of previous rounds.

Is there a fee for applying?

If awarded, businesses will be required to pay a \$50 application fee and a closing fee equal to 2% of the grant amount (up to \$200).

Eligibility and Use of Funds

I am not a resident of Cleveland. Can I still apply?

Yes, if the location of the business/project is located in the City of Cleveland.

My business is located outside of Cleveland. Is it eligible for funding?

No.

What types of businesses are eligible for the Steelyard TIF Grant?

Retail-based for-profit, sole proprietorship, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, and not-for-profits are eligible to apply. Projects should add to the economic vitality of the surrounding neighborhood, benefit the community and meet a local need.

Can I apply for this program if my project is residential?

No, not if it is exclusively residential. Mixed-use projects are eligible to apply.

Are start-ups (< 3 years in operation) eligible to apply?

Yes, with documentation of a business plan.

Can I apply for my home-based business?

No. Home-based businesses are not eligible.

What are the eligible uses for the Small Business grant?

Funds may be used for exterior and interior improvements; exterior lighting; public art; landscaping/bike racks; fencing and signage; IT installation; architectural & engineering (pre-development) fees; furniture, fixtures, & equipment.

Can these grants be used for staffing or operations of my business?

No.

Can you apply for this program if you've already received other City funds?

Yes, we just ask that you provide information on any City funds received previously.

Will there be requirements for MBE/WBE contracting or prevailing wage if I accept this grant?

No.

Are applicants with building code violations on their properties disqualified?

Building code violations should be addressed prior to applying. If you have any questions on violations, please contact the inspector listed on your violation notice.

Can funds be used for environmental remediation?

No.

Application

Are there resources available to help me with business planning prior to submitting the application?

Contact your [Neighborhood Investment Manager](#) for business plan resources. Only start-up businesses are required to submit a business plan if awarded.

If I am working on multiple projects, can I apply for multiple grants?

Applicants can submit more than one application but can only receive one award. You may contact your Neighborhood Investment Manager to learn of additional resources available through the Department.

Are projects that have already broken ground or are in progress eligible to apply?

Projects that are in progress are eligible to apply. In your application, please focus on remaining expenditures and the need for funds.

Can I submit a physical application?

Yes. Application assistance is available through your respective Neighborhood Investment Manager.

Project Selection

How are project awardees selected?

Projects are selected based on the strength and competitiveness of their applications. Competitive projects are those that benefit the community and show strong feasibility and readiness.

If a proposed project is not accepted for funding, can the applicant submit an application in another round?

Yes, applicants who have not been awarded funds may re-apply in other rounds.

Program Details

Will I receive the grant funds up front, or do I need to pay for the work first and submit invoices to be reimbursed?

Grant funds are disbursed on a percentage of completion basis. Percentage of completion is determined by dividing the grant amount by the total project cost, and invoices will be disbursed at that percentage. Funds can be disbursed up-front with a valid invoice but will require proof of payment within 30 days.

How many projects is the City expecting to fund in each round?

Grant awards per round largely depend on the number and relevance of applications received and available funds per neighborhood.

How much time do selected applicants have to complete their projects?

Competitive applications should demonstrate ability to complete projects in no more than 2 years from grant program acceptance.