

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: <https://makeitincleveland.org/about/leadership-and-staff>. If unsure of which neighborhood they fall under, applicants should contact cslansky@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 \$100,000. Approximate neighborhood funds (subject to change) are as follows:

- Ohio City (\$171,749)
- Tremont (\$246,437)
- Clark-Metro (\$168,827)
- Old Brooklyn (\$171,986)
- Slavic Village (\$188,748)
- Lorain Station (\$171,986)

Eligibility and Use of Funds

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

Yes, if the 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?

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.

Can I apply for a Small grant if I have a mobile business such as a food truck?

Yes, businesses that spend a minimum of 70% of time in a designated area are eligible.

Are start-ups able to apply?

Yes.

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; 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.

Are pre-development costs, such as architectural fees, eligible?

Yes. Pre-development costs may be included as part of a proposed project submission.

Is furniture, fixtures and equipment (FFE) eligible?

Yes. FFE is eligible.

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

No.

Are applicants disqualified for building code violations on their properties?

Building code violations should be addressed prior to applying.

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 the Neighborhood Investment Manager for business plan resources. It's only required for start-up businesses to supply a business plan.

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.

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 the 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. A strong application includes supporting documentation that demonstrates these qualities, such as site control, letters of intent, business plans, supporting files and more.

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

Yes, applicants may 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. Funds can be disbursed up-front 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.

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

Competitive applications should demonstrate ability to be complete with 2 years of grant program acceptance.