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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Businesses & Property Owners

CORNERSTONE COMEBACK GRANT PROGRAM

The Cornerstone Comeback Grant Program helps property owners and businesses improve, activate, and invest in Southfield's Historic Cornerstone District through targeted grant opportunities and technical assistance.

About the Program

What is the Cornerstone Comeback Grant Program?

The program provides financial assistance and technical guidance to encourage business investment, commercial occupancy, and property improvements within the Cornerstone District.

What grant opportunities are available?

- **Cornerstone Comeback Business Opening Grant (Eligibility Area: Entire Cornerstone District)**
- Cornerstone Curb Appeal Facade Improvement Grant (Eligibility Area: Northland Park)
- Mid-Century Modern Address Numeral Grant (Eligibility Area: Northland Park)

Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes. Applicants may apply for one or more grant opportunities if they meet the eligibility requirements for each program.

How do I know which grant is right for my project?

Contact the SDDA before applying. Staff and Grant Committee members can discuss your project and help identify the most appropriate grant opportunity.

Cornerstone Comeback Business Opening Grant

Eligibility Area: Entire Cornerstone District

What is the Business Opening Grant?

This grant helps businesses and property owners activate commercial spaces by reimbursing eligible City of Southfield fees associated with obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy.

What is a Certificate of Occupancy?

A Certificate of Occupancy (CofO) confirms that a commercial space has been inspected and approved for its intended use. It helps ensure the space meets applicable building, fire, accessibility, and life-safety requirements before it is occupied.

Why is a Certificate of Occupancy important?

It protects business owners, employees, customers, and visitors by helping ensure commercial spaces are safe and compliant with applicable codes.

What expenses are eligible?

Eligible expenses are qualifying fees paid directly to the City of Southfield as part of obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy. See the Program Guide for complete eligibility requirements.

♦ Mission Statement ♦

Ensure a safe and prosperous environment that advances technology, healthcare, retail, and higher education while supporting stakeholder values that care, share, and grow the community.

How can the SDDA help me through the process?

Grant Committee members can answer questions, help applicants understand the occupancy process, identify potential requirements, and connect applicants with appropriate City departments and resources.

Cornerstone Curb Appeal Facade Improvement Grant

Eligibility Area: Northland Park

What improvements are eligible?

Eligible projects include exterior improvements that enhance curb appeal and improve the appearance of commercial properties. See the Program Guide for eligible improvements.

Who can apply?

Eligible property owners and businesses located within the Northland Park eligible area.

Mid-Century Modern Address Numeral Grant

Eligibility Area: Northland Park

Why is the SDDA encouraging Mid-Century Modern address numerals?

Consistent address numerals improve visibility, strengthen district identity, and reinforce the Mid-Century Modern character of Northland Park.

What styles are encouraged?

Mid-Century Modern styles such as Futura, Kabel, Neutraface, Avant Garde Gothic, and similar typefaces. See the Program Guide for design guidance.

Who can apply?

Eligible property owners and businesses located within the Northland Park eligible area.

Applying for a Grant

How are applications reviewed?

Applications are reviewed by SDDA staff and/or the Grant Review Committee. Some projects may be referred to the Arts Commission, Planning Commission, or SDDA Board for additional review.

Is funding guaranteed?

No. Grants are awarded based on eligibility, available funding, and program priorities.

When are reimbursements issued?

All grants are reimbursement-based. Reimbursement is issued after project completion and submission of required documentation. Business Opening Grant reimbursements are issued after the Certificate of Occupancy has been granted.

Where can I find the application and Program Guide?

Contact the SDDA office or visit the SDDA website for the latest application materials and program documents.

Need Help Getting Started?

The SDDA encourages prospective applicants to contact us before submitting an application. Staff and Grant Committee members are available to answer questions, explain program requirements, discuss project ideas, and help connect applicants with City departments and available resources.

Whether you're opening a business, improving a commercial property, or investing in Northland Park, we're here to help you navigate the process.