



CITY OF CLEARWATER

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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To: City of Clearwater Community Redevelopment Agency Trustees

From: Jesus Niño, Executive Director – Community Redevelopment Agency Department

Date: July 15, 2024

Subject: Request approval of the Commercial Grant Program within the North Greenwood Community Redevelopment Area and to seek an allocation of \$833,472 to fund this program.

Purpose:

The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval for the implementation of the Commercial Grant Program within the North Greenwood Community Redevelopment Area (NGCRA) and to seek an allocation of \$833,472 to fund this program.

Program Overview:

The Commercial Grant Program is designed to incentivize commercial property and business owners within the NGCRA to invest in building, structural, and site improvements. By offering grants of up to \$75,000, this program aims to enhance the visual appeal and functionality of the area, stimulate economic growth, and create a business-friendly environment.

Key Objectives:

1. **Support CRA Plan Implementation:** Facilitate the repair and rehabilitation of buildings as per the community redevelopment area plan.
2. **Promote Commercial Development:** Focus on North Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Pinellas Trail, while allowing access to the grant through the redevelopment area.
3. **Reduce Blight:** Encourage property improvements and the establishment of new businesses to reduce blight.
4. **Create Value:** Promote a welcoming atmosphere for businesses and residents, improve property values, and increase employment opportunities.

Eligibility and Assistance:

- **Grant Amount:** Up to \$75,000 per property owner or business owner.

Ryan Cotton, Councilmember
Mike Mannino, Councilmember

Bruce Rector, Mayor



David Allbritton, Councilmember
Lina Teixeira, Councilmember

- **Applicant Match and Legacy Credit:** Business owners must match grant funds by a percentage based on their years of business ownership, with the potential for a "Legacy Credit" to reduce the match requirement.
- **Community Service Credit:** Up to 50% of the match can be waived through community service within the NGCRA.

Eligible Improvements:

- **Interior:** Electrical, plumbing, ADA systems, fire suppression, structural stabilization, historical restoration, and more.
- **Exterior:** Wall repairs, roofing, decorative fencing, signage, lighting, landscaping, and more.

Application and Approval Process:

- **Tier 1:** Grants up to \$30,000 reviewed by the CRA Director.
- **Tier 2:** Grants exceeding \$30,000 reviewed by the CRA Trustees.
- **Requirements:** Pre-application meeting, notarized Owner's Affidavit (if applicable), design plans, photographs, itemized budget, and three quotes from licensed contractors.

Disbursement and Compliance:

- **Fund Disbursement:** Upon project completion, unless otherwise approved by the CRA Director to allow initial project deposits or other necessary draws, up to fifty percent of the grant amount.
- **Grant Expiration:** Projects must be completed within 365 days of approval, with potential extensions granted for good cause.
- **Maintenance:** Improvements must be maintained for at least three years.

Fiscal Impact and Funding Request: \$833,472 – This funding will provide the necessary resources to support multiple projects within the NGCRA, driving significant economic revitalization and community enhancement.

Attachments:

- Commercial Grant Program and Application Form.
- General Communications Plan for Community Engagement

