



## Winter 2024 Façade Grant Program

**Deadline is February 8, 2024**

### What is the Façade Grant Program?

The Façade Grant Program assists property and business owners located within the identified areas on Main Street from the intersections of Academy Street all the way through Catherine Creek Road to undertake storefront or building front improvements. This grant includes those businesses that are up to a one block radius of Main Street that are located on side streets. These improvements can range from minor repairs and painting to substantial façade renovations on buildings used for commercial or office uses.

The goal of the grant is to:

1. Encourage well-designed improvements;
2. Restore significant architectural elements of the structure, and
3. Coordinate the important features of a commercial or office storefront into a more visually attractive package.

These goals in, turn, are designed to increase the attractiveness of the downtown, increase patronage for the downtown businesses, and provide the incentive for further private investment on Main Street.

The program is funded through the Town of Ahoskie and will be reviewed by the Ahoskie Town Council and the Historic Commission when applicable. If multiple applications are received and funding is limited, the participants will be selected by the Ahoskie Town Council based on meeting the objectives of the program. Awardees will be notified **February 14, 2024** and the deadline for completion is **May 9, 2024**. After review of the completed projects, the grant will be provided in the form of a reimbursement (after work is completed).

### How does the program work?

1. Property owners or business operators with owner approval will submit an application to Ahoskie Town Hall by **Thursday, February 8, 2024**.
2. Approved applications will be notified on **February 14, 2024** and will receive a Letter of Commitment with the amount the town will reimburse(see attached).

3. The grant is a dollar for dollar match up to \$10,666 (total sum will depend on number of applications submitted). So the approved applicant would need to spend \$21,332 to receive the entire grant or match the actual amount of the award received. If the applicant chooses to only spend \$2,000 then the Town of Ahoskie would reimburse \$1,000.
4. Once the work has been completed, the approved applicant will provide the Town of Ahoskie all receipts and invoices for the work completed to be reviewed of eligible costs.
5. The Town of Ahoskie will inspect the completed projects.
6. Once approved, the Town of Ahoskie will reimburse the approved applicants for their portion of the grant.

### **Who can apply for funding?**

Any property/building owner or business operator with written authorization from the owner can apply for funding assistance. The project site must be within the specified locations set forth on Page 1. Business operators must have a minimum of two years remaining on their lease or have an option to renew.

### **What type of improvement is eligible for funding?**

Improvements must be on the façade of the building facing primary street orientation or if on a corner lot, the facades facing the two streets of primary orientation. Examples of eligible improvements include:

- Repair/replacement of roof
- Safe cleaning of brick/stone fronts or wall surfaces. This includes chemical stripping, water wash or scraping. No sand blasting is allowed. Chemical stripping is not appropriate for historic properties (please see item seven U.S. Secretary of The Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation).
- Masonry repair, mortar joint repair, re-pointing of brick.
- Re-painting and patching of façade walls.
- Repair/replacement/relocation of windows and/or doors.
- Removal of siding and exterior false facades and metal canopies.
- Repair, reconstruction, and/or replacement of original architectural details.
- Installations of canvas-type awnings.
- Structural and cornice repair and/or replacement.
- Railings, ironwork repair or addition.
- Historic reconstructions, rehabilitation or compatible reconstruction of a store front.
- Landscaping including sidewalks and plantings.
- Murals

- Installation/replacement/repair of exterior lighting and appropriate signage including structures or frames that contain or hold a sign.
- Installation or improvement of permanently installed signage as part of a renovation activity. In other words, signage may not be the only activity undertaken with the façade program grant. Also, signage must be a permanent installed feature of the façade and may not be portable or removable.
- Addition of a patio or an outdoor eating space (including permanently installed furniture)/

### **Examples of ineligible activities include:**

- Improvements made prior to grant approval.
- Interior rehabilitation/improvements.
- Construction of false fronts.
- Blocking up of windows or installing storm/vinyl windows and doors.
- Demolition of historic features.
- Materials inappropriate to the original structure or nearby structures.
- Alarm systems.
- New building construction.
- Electrical work that involves more than providing service to the façade.
- Any interior work.
- Any items that are not allowed by the NC State Building Code or the Town of Ahoskie Code of Ordinances.
- Parking lots and parking lot striping.
- Application fees, permit fees, and inspection fees.

### **Are there any design guidelines?**

Projects must conform to the Town of Ahoskie Zoning Ordinance, Historical Commission Guidelines, Building Code Ordinance, and be consistent with the outlines in this application. The Historic Commission and the Town of Ahoskie Planning Department will provide era specific information on materials, paint, signage, awnings, façade improvements and other aspects of commercial design when applicable.

What happens after a project is selected for funding?

The awardee has until **May 9, 2024** to complete the project and submit all receipts and invoices. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all building permits and any other required permits for the work to be done. The applicant is responsible for conforming to all applicable safety standards and conditions. Once the work is completed and has been reviewed and approved by the Town of Ahoskie, the Town of Ahoskie will issue a Certificate of Completion (see attached).