

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

I. PROGRAM STATEMENT

The intent of the Vicksburg Downtown Development Authority (DDA) grant program is to strengthen the economic viability of downtown Vicksburg by providing financial assistance for those property owners who desire to improve the appearance and structural conditions of their building(s).

Downtown Vicksburg is unique to the economic health of the Vicksburg community because its condition, whether perceived or actual, plays a large part in the impression people have of the greater area. The downtown is a focal point of the community and Vicksburg property and business owners should take pride in the direction that the downtown area has taken in the past few years.

The Vicksburg DDA is initiating and coordinating downtown activities in the area of promotion, design, business attraction and the effective use of vacant space. However, the ultimate success of downtown Vicksburg is dependent upon the level of private sector commitment. It is up to the merchants, building owners, residents, professionals and investors to improve the mechanics of their business and the condition of their buildings.

It is important that the downtown buildings are safe and provide for continued community growth. The Village of Vicksburg and the Vicksburg DDA feel fortunate to have the ability to provide certain assistance to property and business owners to ensure that the downtown area continues to thrive. There is no other locale in the world that duplicates the combination of design features that we have in our downtown district.

The Vicksburg DDA has acquired a pool of \$36,000.00, from which it intends to provide eligible property and business owners grant assistance for improvements to their downtown structures. This grant program is intended to stimulate improvements to downtown buildings by providing an innovative cooperative financing mechanism. The resulting impact of the grants and in turn, the improvements to downtown will certainly be a public benefit. The grant program presents an opportunity to further preserve our community's heritage and to enhance and promote the unique atmosphere that the downtown can provide. Successful implementation will result in a stronger downtown Vicksburg, a stronger community, and business attraction enhancement for the greater Vicksburg area.

II. PURPOSE OF GRANT PROGRAM

1. To directly stimulate design and structural improvements to downtown buildings.
2. To stimulate building improvements in a coordinated effort, stressing overall downtown compatibility.
3. To stimulate building improvements which stress the historical significance and uniqueness of many downtown structures.
4. To indirectly stimulate building design improvements by establishing visible examples.
5. To strengthen the downtown in both image and structure and set the stage for further development.
6. To enhance business attraction and retention efforts.

III. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

1. The Vicksburg DDA has established a grant program available to the property owners and/or tenants to assist in financing improvements of downtown buildings within the DDA district. Funds for the project were made available by _____ to the Village of Vicksburg for the purpose of upgrading the Village business district.
2. The Vicksburg DDA has selected a grant committee, which will review all applications for eligibility and will determine what amounts, if any, each property or business owner will receive. Submission of an application does NOT guarantee receipt of grant assistance. All application and application materials must be filed with the Village of Vicksburg on or before October 7, 2022.
3. Subject to modification by the grant committee or the Vicksburg DDA, it is the intent of the Vicksburg DDA to provide five (5) grants, as follows:
 - a. One \$15,000.00
 - b. Two \$7,500.00
 - c. Two \$3,000.00
4. The grant program is a 'matching' program wherein each property or business owner may receive up to fifty (50%) percent of the cost it expended in improvements to their property. Business and property owners must provide all receipts and proof of completion of work in order to be eligible for reimbursement.
5. The grant funds may be allocated for work completed any time after July 1, 2021.
6. In order to be eligible for the grant assistance, all taxes and utilities charges for the subject property must be current (paid in full) at all times during construction and the application process.

IV. GRANT POLICY

1. In addition to the Vicksburg DDA design guidelines, the DDA Grant Committee shall consider the following guidelines when reviewing and acting on the program applications:
 - a. The grant program boundaries include a substantial number of buildings and it is recognized that improvements to one structure may not have as great an impact on the downtown as improvements to another. Since the program dollar amount is limited, it is the intent of the DDA to provide the downtown with the greatest impact possible. Therefore, the DDA Grant Committee reserves the right to deny or amend an application based upon the reservation of funds for potential projects that would have, in the Committee's evaluation, the greatest impact to downtown Vicksburg.
 - b. The DDA Grant Committee reserves the right to reject any application for a building which, in the Committee's evaluation, is in such a state of deterioration wherein the grant funds would not have a significant impact on the building or the improvements to downtown.
2. It is the policy of the Village of Vicksburg DDA and its members to provide equal opportunity to all qualified individuals. There will be no discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, age, religion, gender, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, height, weight, or handicap or other protected classes.
3. All projects must serve as a public benefit to the community. For example, structural improvements, such as fire suppression systems, electrical system updates, façade beautification updates, etc, that provide for a safer and more accessible establishment may be considered public benefits. However, improvements or updates that in large part only benefit the property or business owner, such as installation of new fixtures, furniture or appliances, will not be considered a public benefit.

V. PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

The details of the Vicksburg DDA Property Improvement Grant Program may be amended subject to the formal approval of the Vicksburg DDA.



**VICKSBURG DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
Application Form**

Date: _____

1. Applicant Name: _____

2. Address: _____

3. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

4. Phone: _____ Email: _____

5. Project Address: _____

6. Does applicant own the project building with clear title? ☐ YES ☐ NO

7. If the answer to #6 is No, please attached a letter from the owner expressing approval and knowledge of all application and grant fund requirements for said project application.

a. Mortgage with whom, if any: _____

b. Is there a land contract? ☐ YES ☐ NO Between Whom? _____

c. Who is the deed holder? _____

8. Estimated Total Project Cost: _____

a. Request of DDA Grant Program: _____

a. Balance of Project Funding Amount and Source: _____

9. Provide attachment to application as to project cost breakdown by major categories such as: signs, awnings, painting, repairs, carpentry, electrical, fixtures, etc.

10. Proposed Project Start Date: _____

11. Propsed Project Completion Date: _____

12. Please list any finanancial institution you plan on using to secure additional funds to supplement DDA grant: _____

13. What is existing use of property to be renovated or improved: _____

14. Will this proposal result in change in use of property involved with project grant program? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, to what? _____

15. Describe project intent in detail: _____

16. Please attach a copy of project design plans or a detailed written description of the proposed project, with sketches if applicable. Include all colors, materials, designs, styles, lettering, etc.

The undersigned applicant affirms that:

A. The information submitted is true and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge.

B. I/We have read and understand the conditions for eligibility for the Vicksburg DDA Renovation Grant Program and agree to abide by its conditions and guidelines.

Signature of Applicant(s)

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

----- **OFFICE USE** -----

Downtown Grant Committee Action: _____

Date Rejection Letter Sent: _____ Date Acceptance Letter Sent: _____

Date Grant Approved: _____

Amount of Grant Approved: \$ _____ Term: _____

Date Applicant Project Review: _____

Application Amendments: _____

Other: _____

Date File Closed: _____

Agent Signature: _____ Date _____