



Competitive Storefront Renovation Program

The Competitive Storefront Renovation Program will provide grant funding on a competitive basis, to urban county communities, for strategic, geographically-focused, revitalization of commercial, historic or town center areas. Cuyahoga County uses federal funds to support the program. Federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funding obligates both the county and grant awardees to meet certain objectives, and adhere to some specific federal funding requirements. Awarded communities will be responsible for their storefront program administration.

County Priorities	Federal Objectives
Job Growth and Opportunity	Provide a benefit to low and moderate income persons; or
Fairness and Equity	Prevent or eliminate slums and blight; or
Government that Gets Results	Meet needs having a particular urgency.

Successful Applications will meet county priorities and federal HUD objectives.

Requirements: Must meet one of the HUD national objectives –
Benefit LMI households or;
Aid in prevention of slum and blight

Eligibility: 51 urban county communities

Eligible Areas: Must be located in an Investment Target Area (ITA) or;
Low-Mod Area (business must serve predominantly LMI households) or;
Spot blight designated area.

Municipality Defined Area Blight

If self-defined area blight designation, an exterior building inspection by the municipality's building official must be conducted and indicate the exact nature of any applicable code violations. The community then declares, in writing, that the area or structures are blighted.

"Blighted area" and "slum" mean an area in which at least seventy per cent of the parcels are blighted parcels and those blighted parcels substantially impair or arrest the sound growth of the state or a political subdivision of the state, retard the provision of housing accommodations, constitute an economic or social liability, or are a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in their present condition and use.

Improvement Target Area (ITA) and Low-Mod Income (LMI) Area

Specific community maps of Improvement Target Areas and Low-Mod Income Areas can be obtained by written request to communitydevelopment@cuyahogacounty.us.

Activity design: Determined by city with adherence to all HUD regulations including but not limited to Davis-Bacon.

Project Eligibility: Commercial district, Downtown-Town Center district, Historic district.

Must contain at least 3 commercial structures/businesses, sharing a common border, requiring revitalization.

CDBG funds can only be used on exterior repairs and improvements.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications for the Cuyahoga County Competitive Storefront Program are scored on a scale up to 100 points.

Activity Description (30 pts. max)

Describe the neighborhood, businesses and/or properties affected by the proposed activity. If buildings are vacant, describe plans for future use. Describe the beneficiaries of the activity. Describe the participation by the property/business owner in the activity (financial, sweat equity, etc.). Describe how properties were or will be identified.

Activity Impact (50 pts. max)

Describe how the project will assist the community achieve the stated goals or vision of the community Master Plan or Economic Development Plan. Include why the proposed activity is needed and what outcomes will be achieved from the proposed activity. Explain how the proposed activity fits strategically with other development activities already planned and underway in the community or surrounding area. Describe the proposed improvements (e.g., code repairs, exterior finishes, awnings, painting signage, etc.),

Activity Implementation Schedule with Milestones (20 pts. max)

Provide a timeline of legislative, administrative and contractual activities that must occur from inception to completion, including the timing and amount of other funding or in-kind contributions.

Summary:

Funds Available

- \$50,000 Maximum grant award per municipality
- Minimum matching investment – 50% of grant amount requested

Program Term

- April 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
- Only one (1) application per community.

Application Deadline

- Friday, December 23, 2016 at 4:00pm
- Submit applications via email and in PDF format to communitydevelopment@cuyahogacounty.us

Because this is a competitive award program, only completed applications received on time will be considered.