

City of Akron Great Streets / Downtown Storefront Grant FAQs

Q. My business is located outside the Great Streets Districts/Downtown Special Improvement District (SID). Am I eligible for the COA Storefront Grant?

A. No, businesses located outside the Great Streets or Downtown Special Improvement District are not eligible for the COA Storefront Grant.

Q. I already received a Great Streets Facade Improvement Grant/Downtown Akron COVID Recovery Grant/Downtown Akron CARES Act Grant. Am I eligible for the COA Storefront Grant?

A. Yes, previous Great Streets Facade Grant and Downtown COVID Recovery/CARES Act Grant recipients are eligible to apply for the COA Storefront Grant.

Q. My business is in a Great Streets district ineligible for the Facade Improvement Grant (Ellet-Canton Road, Wallhaven), am I still eligible for a COA Storefront Grant?

A. Yes, business storefronts in the Ellet-Canton Road and Wallhaven Great Streets districts ARE eligible for the COA Great Streets Storefront Grant.

Q. What is a physical storefront? Is my business eligible?

A. The COA Great Streets/Downtown Storefront Grant program typically defines a physical storefront as a street/pedestrian walkway facing, ground floor (street level) or 2nd floor commercial business storefront within the 12 Great Streets districts or [Downtown SID](#). For any additional questions regarding eligibility, email citygrant@greaterakronchamber.org

Q. Can I edit my application after I submitted it?

A. Once the application is submitted, it cannot be changed. Please be sure to double check your information before submitting the application.

Q. What if I am unable to apply online?

A. A PDF of the application is available to download and print **here**. To obtain a paper application, please contact citygrant@greaterakronchamber.org

Q. What are eligible business expenses?

A. Please refer to Section 3 of the grant agreement/guidelines, which details eligible business expenses. Eligible business expenses include rent, utilities, salaries/wages, employee health insurance, and supplies that are part of a business's normal operating expenses, as well as expenses relating to the COVID pandemic, such as PPE, sanitizer, face masks, and other protective measures.

Q. I have more than 10 documents to upload as eligible business expenses. What should I do?

A. Please combine multiple documents into a single file before uploading. Additional documentation can also be emailed to citygrant@greaterakronchamber.org or faxed to (330) 379-3164.

Q. What kind of supporting documents are acceptable?

A. Supporting documents can include invoices, receipts, canceled checks, paid bills, email confirmations, account statements, and ledger records.

Q. If my application is approved for a grant, what happens next?

A. Grant awardees will receive notification at the email address or phone number designated in the application. Additional steps needed to include?

Q. How long do I have to spend the grant funds?

A. Grant funds must be used by December 19, 2021. Note: funds must be applied toward expenses incurred on or after March 1, 2020.

Q. What if I have other questions?

A. Please feel free to email us at citygrant@greaterakronchamber.org and we will get back to you as soon as possible. For Great Streets specific questions, contact mark.greer@akronohio.gov; For Downtown specific questions, contact kbeckett@downtownakron.com

Additional support can be found by reaching out to:

Heather Flohr – hflohr@greaterakronchamber.org | (330) 237-1210

Melise Williams – mwilliams@greaterakronchamber.org | (330) 237-1219

General Questions – citygrant@greaterakronchamber.org