



## **TOWN OF OLATHE**

### **FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR OLATHE BUSINESSES**

#### **Overview**

The Town of Olathe is pleased to announce that it has received a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). This grant is intended to support the revitalization of our Main Street and bolster local retail businesses. The approved funding allows eligible businesses to apply for a façade improvement grant for total project costs of up to \$10,000. (Total project cost includes grant match.)

**Funds are currently available, and the deadline to submit applications is April 4, 2024. Interested businesses can obtain applications at Town Hall, located at 419 S. Horton Ave., or online at [www.townofolathe.org](http://www.townofolathe.org) (online applications will be accessible starting February 12, 2024). Applications must be submitted complete, with quotes for completion of work and pictures of exterior attached before they will be reviewed.**

To ensure a fair and thorough review process, the Town will establish a committee comprising a representative from the Planning & Zoning Committee or Board of Trustees, the Town Administrator, and the Town Building Official. The Committee is scheduled to finalize and announce grant awards by May 2, 2024. Should additional funding be available, grant applications will be considered on a rolling basis until December 2, 2024.

Successful applicants will collaborate with the Town's Building Official to secure all necessary permits, comply with building regulations, and adhere to façade improvement design guidelines.

#### **Guidelines**

- Grant applications will not be accepted for work that has already been started or is complete, or for work that is covered by insurance.
- Grant applications must be approved before any costs are incurred for materials, labor, etc.
- Grants are awarded on a single payment reimbursement basis once work has been completed, verified by the Town Building Official and compliant with the plans in the approved application and final grant reporting has been submitted. Any changes from the approved grant project may result in the total or partial withdrawal of the grant.

#### **Eligibility:**

- All businesses in the 200 and 300 blocks of Olathe's Main Street and retail businesses along Highway 50 Business Loop.
- Tenants must have at least two years remaining on their lease with the property owner and have the property owner's written permission approvals to apply.

- A property owner of multiple properties may apply for grant funds for each owned property with separate grant applications, and each application may not exceed \$10,000 total project cost. (Total project cost includes applicant's 25% match.)

**Match Requirement:** Applicants must commit to a 25% grant match, covering 25% of the total cost of the project and grant request. Projects with a match greater than 25% will be more competitive.

**Technical:**

- All businesses and/or property owners that receive a grant must agree to enter into a contract with the Town of Olathe guaranteeing their match including responsibility for any expenses in excess of the grant award, agreement to complete the project by April 30, 2025, and final grant reporting due by May 31, 2025, and limiting Town of Olathe liability.
- All improvements must comply with existing Town of Olathe codes and building and façade improvement regulations.
- Building and other permit fees will be waived for approved grant applications.

**Eligible Improvements:** Include, but are not limited to:

- Awning repair, replacement, removal or addition
- Removal and replacement of existing business sign(s), or new signs
  - Façade improvements include, but not limited to:
  - Storefront repairs or upgrades, including entryway doors
  - Window repair or replacement
  - Façade alterations
  - Rehabilitation of historic features of building
  - Cleaning of façade materials, painting, brick pointing and other façade improvements
- Modifications to improve accessibility to business
- Other improvements with a proven economic benefit or significant return to historical context.
- Roof and foundation work will not be considered for grant funding at this time.

**Selection Criteria:**

The following criteria will be considered in selecting grant awards.

- Improvements that address deterioration of existing façade
- Improvements that rehabilitate and protect the historical qualities of the façade
- Projects with strong applicant match
- Projects with strong economic benefit

**Questions?**

Monique Garrett: [mgarrett@olatheco.us](mailto:mgarrett@olatheco.us) or 970-323-5601

Scott Eklund: [seklund@olatheco.us](mailto:seklund@olatheco.us) or 970-323-5601