

Burt County Commercial Building Renovation Grant Program Guidelines Funded by the Donald E. Nielsen Foundation

The Burt County Commercial Building Grant Program offers a grant of 50% of the total project cost, with a maximum grant amount of \$15,000, to be used to improve the structural integrity, reduce blight, and preserve the business districts of our small towns. The program is only available for existing commercial buildings within the city limits or the city's zoning jurisdiction. While the grant is provided through the county, Burt County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) will administer the grant.

Eligibility:

*The building considered for the application must be used for current commercial purposes or have plans to be placed for sale, lease or rent at market rate for commercial purposes within one year of project completion. If not, the grant funds would need to be reimbursed.

*Commercial buildings that allow residential living spaces on the storefront level are not allowed to apply.

*Grant funds can be used for any exterior or interior renovation that would be considered necessary to provide structural stability for the building. Additionally, any street-facing façade improvements would qualify if attached to the building. Examples: roofing, windows, doors, awnings, brick tuckpointing, etc.

* As an applicant for the grant, the building owner must agree to allow the building inspector and/or additional professionals the right to inspect the interior of the building for initial structural integrity.

*No buildings used primarily for storage, whether for self or renting to others, will be eligible for consideration for the grant. Storage is allowed if it is in the rear of the building, not seen from the street, and not advertised on the front or sides of the building.

*Maximum grant per commercial building is no more than 50% of the lowest bid on the total project, with a maximum of \$15,000. Each applicant can receive no more than \$15,000.

*No applicant who has been delinquent on any previous loans through BCEDC is eligible.

*Upon completion of the improvement project, grantee must submit the following information to the BCEDC Board in order for the grant funds to be disbursed:

- Provide copies of all invoices paid and/or cancelled checks to show payment of grantee's portion of the project.
- Provide photographs of the completed project.

- The grantee shall schedule a site visit with the BCEDC Executive Director to provide verification all work items listed on the approved grant application were completed.

*Individuals can be awarded no more than one grant. Buildings are considered separate as they are assessed by the county.

Application Process:

- a. Contact the BCEDC office for an application.
- b. Fully complete the application along with supporting documentation and submit back to the BCEDC office.

Burt County Economic Development Corporation
111 N. 13th, Suite 13
Tekamah, NE 68061
402-374- 2953 ecodevo@burtcounty.org

- c. Application will be reviewed by the BCEDC board of directors at their monthly board meeting. Recommendation based on their review will be forwarded to the County Supervisors.
- d. The Burt County Board of Supervisors will rule on the applicant. BCEDC will contact the application with the results. **No work may commence until the application is approved.**
- e. After approval by the Board of Supervisors, the applicant will have one year to complete the project and provide all relevant materials to BCEDC for payment.

Upon Completion of the Improvement:

- a. Provide copies of all final invoices and photographs of the completed project.
- b. The grantee will then schedule a site visit with the Executive Director of BCEDC. The director will visit the building to provide verification that all work items listed on the approved grant application were completed.

I have read the guidelines. I understand that by accepting any grant funds, I am required to abide by the regulations as written.

Applicant Signature _____

Print Name _____



Burt County

Economic Development Corporation
Helping Nebraska Prosper

Burt County Commercial Building Renovation Grant Application

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Best Phone # to reach you: _____

Federal ID or SS #: _____

Email: _____

Describe renovations or improvements; please provide picture(s) of area to be improved:

Please attach two (2) estimates for each component of the proposed improvement. Grant to be awarded based upon the lowest bid.

Signature of owner/authorized agent; affidavit or sworn declaration; date of application submission

I, _____, solemnly declare that the information contained in this application is true, and that the information contained in the documents that accompany this application is true.

Applicant's signature

Date