

City of Umatilla
Address: 700 Sixth Street
Email: jessenia.carrillo@umatilla.gov
Phone: (541) 922-3226 x113



Press Release

July 02, 2025

Contact: Marisela Morales, Community Development Manager, 541-922-3226 x 112

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: City of Umatilla Announces Exciting Updates to the Local Business & Downtown Revitalization Grant Programs

Umatilla, OR — July 02, 2025 — The City of Umatilla is excited to announce new updates to its Local Business and Downtown Revitalization Grant Programs, which aim to support local businesses throughout the City and enhance the city's vibrant downtown district. These updates will help further stimulate economic growth, encourage community engagement, and promote the beautification of Umatilla's historic areas.

Recognizing that thriving local businesses and a vibrant downtown are essential to long-term development, the updated grant programs offer financial support to property owners and business tenants seeking to improve their space, generate employment, and strengthen the local economy.

Since the first Downtown Revitalization Grant was awarded in fiscal year 2019–2020 and the first Local Business Grant in fiscal year 2021–2022, the City has awarded 26 Downtown Revitalization Grants and 23 Local Business Grants. To date, \$398,304 has been distributed through the Downtown Revitalization Grant Program and \$357,402 through the New Business Grant Program. For fiscal year 2025–2026, Umatilla has allocated \$150,000 for Downtown Revitalization Grants and \$250,000 for New Business Grants.

“The City of Umatilla remains committed to supporting the long-term success of our local businesses and the revitalization of our historic downtown,” said Marisela Morales, Community Development Manager. “These updated grant

programs are about more than just improving physical spaces, they're about encouraging meaningful investment, fostering local pride, and building a thriving, connected community."

Program Highlights:

1. Local Business Grant Program:

- **Maximum Grant:** \$25,000
- **Minimum Project Cost:** \$5,000
- **Reimbursement:** Up to 75% of eligible project costs
- **Focus Area:** Grants specifically available for buildings located within the Downtown Zone of Umatilla.
- **Priority Funding:** Local and regional businesses over national chains/franchises.

2. Downtown Revitalization Grant Program:

- **Maximum Grant:** \$25,000
- **Minimum Project Cost:** \$5,000
- **Reimbursement:** Up to 75% of eligible project costs
- **Focus Area:** Grants specifically available for buildings located within the Downtown Zone of Umatilla.
- **Priority Funding:** Local and regional businesses over national chains/franchises.

Updated Eligibility & Program Guidelines:

- **Eligibility:** Both property owners and business tenants are eligible, provided they have a signed lease agreement or a letter of intent.
- **Project Scope:** Grants support a variety of improvements, including façade renovations, interior enhancements, commercial equipment purchases, site preparation, and other related projects.
- **Competitive Awards:** Preference will be given to projects that have not already received grant funding in the same fiscal year and to new applicants. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to encourage broad participation across the community.
- **Funding Limitations:** To ensure an equitable distribution of resources, applicants are eligible to receive a maximum of three grants over four years, with a total funding limit of \$50,000 during that time.
- **Application Deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round, with quarterly recommendations to the City Council (first Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October).

Goals of the Program:

The goal of both programs is to foster the economic vitality of Umatilla by:

- Supporting the growth of local businesses
- Enhancing the visual appeal of downtown
- Filling commercial vacancies
- Encouraging pedestrian-friendly amenities
- Increasing job creation
- Promoting the preservation and enhancement of Umatilla's architectural features

Application Process:

1. **Pre-Application Consultation:** Applicants are encouraged to meet with the City's Community Development Department (CDD) to discuss project plans before submitting their applications.
2. **Bids:** A minimum of one bid is required at the time of application, and additional competitive bids may be requested for larger projects.
3. **Approval Process:** Applications will be reviewed by the CDD and recommended to the City Council for final approval. Once approved, grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis after the project is completed, and documentation is submitted.

For more information on the Local Business Grant and Downtown Revitalization Grant programs, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit the City of Umatilla's official website at <https://www.umatilla.gov/community/page/community-development-grants> or contact the Community Development Manager, Marisela Morales, at 541-922-3226 x 112.

END PRESS