

Face Lift Program

Program Guidelines

Façade Improvement Programs have shown to increase the economy of communities by enhancing the overall aesthetic of the neighborhood. The programs have proven to increase the number of businesses in communities, reduce vacant storefronts, and strengthen the core of the business district. In 2022, Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation founded the Face Lift program to assist Camp Washington small businesses and commercial property owners with exterior building improvements. This program provides a 50% matching grant to reimburse expenses incurred during the façade improvement. There is no minimum grant amount, and the maximum amount is \$10,000.

Applicants will be processed in the order that they are received, and grants will be awarded as funding is available.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants, whether individual or entity, must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant is in good standing with government entities (i.e. current on income tax, property tax, utilities, code violations, fees)
- Must be an active Camp Washington Business Association member
- Applicant owns the building or property for which they are applying*

*If the applicant does not own the building for which they are applying but does have the building under contract or a signed letter of approval from the building owner. However, grants will not be awarded until the applicant owns the building or submitted a letter from the property owner.

Eligible Buildings

A building's eligibility is determined by use, not zoning. Eligible buildings include:

- Commercial Use (Non-Residential)
- Industrial Use
- Mixed Use (integrated commercial and residential uses)

Eligible buildings must have no code violations. If the building has code violations the applied façade improvement must resolve the issues. Buildings with vacancies are required to provide a marketing plan that demonstrates their intention to actively market the property for commercial, industrial, or mixed use, a letter of intent from a business to occupy the space, or a statement of self-occupancy by the building owner.

Ineligible Buildings

Building with an exclusively single-family residential or multi-family residential use or which contain the following businesses are ineligible:

- Franchise and chain businesses
- Tow Yards
- Buildings not located in the neighborhood of Camp Washington

Eligible Expenses

The Façade Improvement Grant provides funding for a comprehensive enhancement to a buildings façade (exterior building improvements). A façade is defined at the side of a building that faces a public street. Eligible projects include replacement, repair, or addition of at least two of the expenses below.

Eligible expenses include:

- Building facing materials.
- Windows
- Doors
- Gutters and Down spouts
- Stairs
- Ramps
- Sidewalks on private property
- Exterior lighting (including lighting directed on the building, but not attached to it)
- Exterior painting
- Awnings
- Canopies
- Murals
- Walk-Up service Window
- Permanent patio or deck
- Security cameras

Ineligible expenses include:

- Accessory structures such as sculptures
- Temporary patios, benches, etc.
- Sidewalks on public property
- Temporary Signage
- Permits or architectural drawings related to projects.

All enhancements must be located on private property and comply with City of Cincinnati zoning and building codes to be eligible for the Façade Improvement Grant. Any eligible expenses incurred prior to the execution of the Façade Improvement Grant Agreement, or work performed without required permits, are ineligible.

Each eligible expense must be submitted with a quote for the project before the grant agreement can be completed. Contractors must have required licensing and insurance. All work should be done to applicable codes. Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation must be stated as additionally insured on contractor insurance policies.

Projects shall be completed within 12 months of the Effective Date of the Façade Improvement Grant Agreement.

Application Process and Timeline

Application Submission

Submit an application and all supporting documents to Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation via the FaceLift application on our website (www.cwurc.org/FaceLift)

Required documentation includes:

- Proof of Insurance
- Tax Registration Form
- W-9
- Operating Agreement
- (Non-profit applicants) Board resolution authorizing authority to enter into agreements
- Commitment letter from additional funding sources
- Project Quotes (we encourage 3 quotes, but will accept less)
- Current photo of the building's façade
- Drawings, renderings, elevations (if available)
- Marketing brochure/plan or a letter of intent to occupy the space (required for buildings with vacancies)

Application Review

Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation Executive Director and Board of Trustees will review the application and the supporting documentation to determine eligibility. Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation team to ensure appropriate approvals have been obtained prior to the application being approved.

Application Approval

The application will be presented to Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation Community Growth and Engagement committee for review. The Community Growth and Engagement committee consists of various professional representatives and community members. The group will provide a formal recommendation to the full Board of Trustees on how to proceed with the applications.

Face Lift Grant Agreement

If the application is approved, the City will enter into a Face Lift Grant Agreement with the applicant to establish the terms and conditions in which eligible work can be reimbursed. Any work performed prior to execution of the Face Lift Grant Agreement is NOT eligible for reimbursement. In addition to the Face Lift Grant Agreement, the applicant is required to grant a personal and/or corporate guarantee and promissory note to Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation that states they have the funds to cover their portion of the work.

Project Completion and Reimbursement

The project is defined as eligible work to be performed to the façade. To qualify for reimbursement, the project must be complete within twelve months of the effective date on the Face Lift Grant Agreement. When requesting reimbursement, the applicant must submit copies of all invoices, matching proof of payment by a cancelled check, and copies of permits and inspections. Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation will review the information for accuracy and completeness and process for reimbursement, which will be disbursed by a mailed check.

Applicants have the option to submit for a total of two requests for reimbursement. As part of the final request for reimbursement, applicants will need to provide a photo of the building's completed façade. Grant recipients may be required to complete an informational survey and make a statement about the project prior and after funding.

Questions?

Email all questions to Sidney Nation at Sidney@cwurc.org

APPLY NOW!