



Applications should be submitted

to Main Street Texarkana, 819 N.

State Line Ave, 75501, or P.O. Box 631, Texarkana, AR-TX, 75504. **FOR INFO/HELP, CONTACT:** Main Street Texarkana Office (903) 792-7191 / Fax (903) 793-4304, or email: mainstreet@texarkana.org

ABOUT THE ARKANSAS BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The first impression of downtown is that of physical elements such as buildings. These elements make a lasting impression. It is vitally important that the structures in the downtown area are pleasing to the eye; that they make a good first impression. The Main Street Texarkana Building Improvement Grant (BIG) Program is designed to provide incentive to building and business owners to assist in facade improvements, exterior building maintenance or signage improvements in order to enhance that first impression of downtown. The BIG Program is one link in the puzzle of downtown revitalization, but it is an important link. One that will help create a positive visual image of downtown Texarkana, assist in creating a more attractive climate for investment, and attract new business into the downtown area.

GRANT AMOUNT

Building Improvement Grants may be made to any core downtown building for facade improvements, exterior building maintenance or signage improvements. The amount awarded will be up to one-half the total project cost as funds are available. If the total cost of

the project is \$2,000, for instance, the grant award would be one-half, or \$1000.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The grant may be used for the following exterior improvements:

- Painting
- Masonry cleaning
- Sign repair, removal, or replacement
- Repairing or replacing cornices, entrances, doors windows, and decorative details, all of which must be located on the building facade
- Purchasing or repairing awnings

WHO IS ELIGIBLE & AWARD PROCESS

Buildings located in Arkansas, in the Main Street Texarkana Program District are eligible for Grants. The proposed project must follow good preservation practice and be sensitive to the nature of the building and its surroundings (see Building Improvement Grant Guidelines). The building owner or tenant, the one undertaking the project, should consult with Main Street Texarkana's Executive Director and any MST-recommended design consultant

before applying. Final approval will come from a committee consisting of the Main Street Executive Director, MST design review committee, and Main Street Arkansas. Funds will be paid on presentation of paid receipts from the project.



FREE DESIGN ASSISTANCE

Main Street Texarkana can provide free professional exterior design assistance through the Main Street Arkansas Program. This assistance includes recommendations for proper exterior facade improvements including paint colors, sign design and drawings of proposed work.



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Texarkana, AR-TX 75504

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ARKANSAS BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT GUIDELINES

1. Structural alteration to the building front must be minimal.
2. Distinguishing original features may not be destroyed. Removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive feature must be avoided if at all possible.
3. Alterations that seek to create an appearance unrelated to the actual historic age of the building (such as imitation colonial trim) should not be attempted.
4. Changes that have already been made to the building and have historic value in their own right usually should be retained.
5. Examples of skilled craftsmanship in the construction of the building must be treated sensitively.
6. Deteriorated architectural features must be repaired rather than replaced whenever possible. Necessary replacements should match the original in composition, design, color, and texture. In the case of replacing elements removed in the past, every effort must be made to find physical or pictorial evidence of what the original feature was like.
7. Surface cleaning must be by the gentlest means available. Destructive methods, such as sandblasting or other abrasive methods, will not be allowed.
8. It is recommended that the applicant discuss the proposed project with the Main Street Executive Director and a MST-recommended design consultant before submitting the application for funds.
9. Any sign must be in scale with the building to which it will be attached, must be professionally executed, and must comply with any local sign ordinance.
10. Grants are limited to one-half of the project cost, based on availability of competitive funding.



ARKANSAS BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

BUSINESS OWNER:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

PROPERTY OWNER: (if different from BUSINESS OWNER)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION: _____

DATE BUILT: (if known) _____

HISTORICAL NOTES: (if any) _____

If available, please attach 1-2 photographs showing the property's historical/architectural significance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:

1. DESIGN CONCEPT DRAWING (If project involves a sign, include drawing of proposed sign.)
2. PROJECT'S COST ESTIMATE(S)
3. WORK SCHEDULE (with anticipated dates to start and finish)

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: