

Downtown Life Safety Improvements Grant

The Huntsville Main Street Program seeks to provide financial assistance to Downtown Huntsville property and/or business owners to improve existing commercial buildings in the form of a reimbursement program. The program will stimulate economic and business development downtown by providing safe environments for employees, customers and the public **Grant funds will focus on the elimination of conditions that could be a serious growing menace or injurious to public health, safety and welfare to those occupants of commercial buildings located in the nine blocks of the Huntsville Main Street District.**

The Downtown Life Safety Grant is setup as a single payment reimbursement to property owners per building/business, and in some situations, tenants. **Grants are available on a 50/50 matching basis with a cap of \$1000 per grant (\$2,000+ total project costs).** Qualified applicants will be required to match the awarded grant funds dollar for dollar. Grants will be awarded based on the number of life safety improvements and the costs of each improvement. Approved applicants will only receive one Downtown Life Safety Grant approval every three (3) years from the date the previous grant was awarded. The aggregate total of Huntsville Main Street Program grants awarded to property per year may not exceed \$2,000.

The total funds available in the matching grant program at any given time may restrict the City's ability to fully fund a grant request. Matching grants shall be processed on a first come – first served basis, as grant monies are limited and can be competitive. Consideration will include the necessity of the repairs or improvements, and the benefit to the building and the general public. No grants will be awarded for work that has already been completed. All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Huntsville Main Street Advisory Board before any eligible work may begin. If awarded a reimbursement grant, any deviation from the approved grant project may result in the total or partial withdrawal of the grant. Any construction that begins before the approval of the Huntsville Main Street Advisory Board of grant proposals will void any reimbursements from being awarded.

1. **Eligibility:** Eligible improvements must directly relate and follow the City of Huntsville Code of Ordinances. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Chapter 12 – Buildings and Building Regulations
 - b. Chapter 12 – Businesses and Business Regulations
 - c. Chapter 20 – Fire Prevention and Protection
 - d. Chapter 22 – Health and Sanitation

2. **Application Requirements:** All grant applications must include the following:
 - a. Completed application form
 - b. Drawings/plans detailing the proposed improvements
 - c. Itemized cost estimates

3. **Approval Process:** The program applications will be reviewed by the Main Street Advisory Board to ensure all funds are awarded to viable improvements that are in compliance with the Main Street program's Community Transformation Strategic Work Plan. This work plan has been submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Texas Historical Commission. Please be aware that in

an effort to assist as many applicants as possible with the limited program funds available, the City of Huntsville cannot guarantee that all matching grant requests will be funded. The Main Street Advisory Board will consider without limitations the following:

- a. The property owner must comply with all local and state laws and regulations affecting the property, its rehabilitation and future use.
 - b. The property owner must be in good standing with the City of Huntsville. Any fines, fees or unpaid taxes owed to the City of Huntsville by the property owner must be paid in full, prior to the application being accepted.
- 4. Project Process**
- a. Applicants are required to obtain all City permits and City approvals required for construction if a grant is issued.
 - b. Life safety improvements must comply with all state and local laws including all ordinances and regulations of the City of Huntsville.
 - c. Projects must begin within sixty (60) days from the date of grant approval and must be completed within the City's budget year, ending September 30.
 - d. The Main Street Manager must approve any changes made to the scope of work. Funding will not be awarded for any changes made under the construction without prior approval. Significant changes to the scope of work will require approval from the Main Street Advisory Board.
- 5. Reimbursement:** Matching grant monies will be disbursed at the completion of restoration and/or improvements and with the acceptance of work by the City of Huntsville and the Main Street Advisory Board. Documentation and proof of cost must be submitted with a written request for reimbursement.