

City of Alamosa Council Policy

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Background

Since 2007, the City has offered a small grant program for businesses looking to make improvements on their building façade. With the merger of the Chamber and the Alamosa Community Development Corporation into the Alamosa County Economic Development (ACED) it is necessary to amend the city's façade program policy.

It is in the City's interest to improve the attractiveness and viability of its core commercial districts. For many years the Alamosa Community Development Corporation, a private group, has offered low interest loans to interested property owners to improve façades in the downtown core. The creation of the ACED allows the city to continue with that group and to amend the policy for greater efficacy. The revised policy will allow the City to continue leveraging City funds to obtain greater improvements within the City's commercial districts.

Purpose of the Policy

It is intent of this policy to provide procedures and guidelines for applicants and staff in administering and using the City's facade improvement program.

Policy

Façade improvements represent an effort and an investment by building owners to improve the looks of the City. Users of the ACED Façade Improvement Grant loan program or similar private financing are eligible for a grant from the City of Alamosa for additional facade improvements. The following guidelines outline eligibility requirements and procedures for use of such funds.

1. Grant participants must be participating in either the ACED low interest loan program or similar private financing or personal funds. The applicant will need to provide the City appropriate backup for the expenditures such as a signed contract for improvements or invoices matching the application form.
2. Other financing including personal funds must be three times the amount of the requested grant. For example, if a grant in the amount of \$500 is requested, other financing must equal at least \$1,500.
3. Participant must fill out the attached form identifying the private source of funding and include plans for work to be done. Funds will not be available for such items as power washing sidewalks, moveable furniture, etc. All improvements must be to an actual building and visible to the public.

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Interior improvements are not eligible for the grant. The City will not fund buildings for improvements that have previously been improved using City funds within the last 10 years. City funds may only be used for facade improvements, specifically materials.

4. Minimum Grant \$500. Maximum grant \$1,500.

5. All facilities to be improved must be within City limits, specifically within the City's Downtown Overlay District or in a Commercial Business Zone.

Applicants must present City staff with the attached application form and its required attachments. Successful applicants will be able to provide the City with necessary invoices and documentation to show the City funds were spent on the required items. All improvements using City funds must be completed within one year of award. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Funds will only become available after the city and applicant sign an award letter. The City reserves the right to limit the number of participants or the total amount available in any year. While the City typically sets aside \$5,000 for this program, funding is dependent upon Council action. The City reserves the right to suspend the program at any time and the submittal of an application is not a guarantee of funding or of funding availability.