



### **Small Business Interior Improvement Grant Program – Overview**

The City of Rochelle's Small Business Interior Improvement Grant Program is designed to encourage investment in local businesses and promote revitalization of Downtown Rochelle. The program provides matching funds to help business owners improve the interior of their properties, enhance safety, and upgrade building functionality.

### **Program Details**

- Grant Type: Reimbursement Matching Grant (50/50)
- Maximum Grant: Up to \$10,000 per project
- Eligible Areas: Downtown TIF District
- Small businesses with less than 25 employees, property owners, or tenants with owner consent

### **Eligible Improvements**

Projects must involve permanent interior improvements that enhance safety, accessibility, or visual appeal. Examples include flooring, lighting, HVAC, ADA improvements, fire suppression, plumbing, and electrical upgrades.

Any business, either wholly or partially owned by an individual or group of individuals whose received money in the past 3 years will not be eligible for funds for up to 3 years. The program defines owners as any common ownership if it is a corporation or limited liability company.

Any building with a zoning or building code violation is not eligible for the program. Any building owner or business owner must be in good standing with the City and RMU for a minimum of 60 days.

Business must remain open and conduct business for 12 months after receiving the grant.

**Exhibit A**



**Ineligible Costs**

- Furniture, equipment, and décor not permanently affixed
- Routine maintenance or cleaning
- Work started before grant approval

**Application Process**

1. Schedule a pre-application meeting with the Community Development Department.
2. Submit a completed application with required attachments (photos, cost estimates, and project description).
3. Committee review applications for eligibility.
4. Upon approval, applicants and City execute a Grant Agreement before construction begins and pull all applicable permits related to the project.
5. Reimbursement issued after project completion- final inspection by the Building Official.

**Contact Information**

City of Rochelle – Community Development Department  
Attn: Michelle Pease, Community Development Director  
420 N 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Rochelle, IL 61068  
(815) 562-2073  
[mpease@rochelleil.us](mailto:mpease@rochelleil.us)