GDBP COMMERCIAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM 2026/2027

Program Overview

The Guysborough District Business Partnership (GDBP) will offer a matching façade improvement grant to support commercial storefront upgrades within the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (MODG).

The program supports improvements to commercial properties that contribute to more attractive, welcoming, and vibrant communities while encouraging investment and showcasing a commitment to ongoing growth and renewal.

Funding is available in grant amounts up to $10,000 per property. As the program requires a 50/50 cost share, applicants must contribute an equal amount toward the project, resulting in total project values ranging up to a maximum of $20,000. Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis upon completion of the approved work and submission of supporting documentation, including paid invoices, receipts, and photographs verifying the completed improvements.

As a condition of funding, successful applicants will be required to display a small project recognition sign provided by the Guysborough District Business Partnership upon completion of the improvements. The sign will acknowledge the GDBP's contribution to the project and recognize the business owner's investment in enhancing their property.

This program has been developed to support local businesses make meaningful improvements that contribute to a more vibrant, welcoming, and investment-ready place to do business.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following conditions

- Have a commercial business or property located within MODG.
- Property must have a visible public-facing storefront.
- Applicant must be in good standing (property taxes, sewer, necessary permits, and provincially registered and licensed if required, etc.)
- Work must adhere to local municipal by-laws.
- Written property owner consent required if you are a tenant and submitting an application to the program.
- Quotes or cost estimates required with application (work must not commence prior to approval).
- One application per property per intake period.

Eligible Improvements

Projects must focus on exterior storefront aesthetics, including:

- Façade restoration or repainting
- New or improved permanent signage
- Window and door upgrades
- Exterior lighting improvements
- Awnings, trim, and architectural features
- Landscaping
- Masonry
- Minor exterior repairs that improve appearance

Ineligible Improvements

- Interior renovations
- Routine maintenance
- Structural upgrades not visible from the street
- New construction or expansions
- Landscaping not directly tied to storefront presentation
- Temporary signage or advertising

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the Board based on:

- Visual impact and contribution to façade of surrounding area
- Project readiness
- Alignment with community character
- Potential to encourage further investment by nearby businesses

Program Process

1. Submit completed application.
2. Review and approval of application by GDBP Board.
3. Approval letter issued with conditions.
4. Project completed within approved timeline.
5. Submission of invoices and photos of completed project.
6. Reimbursement at 50% of the lesser of actual or agreed upon project costs.

Applications are to be submitted through the Google Forms link on the Guysborough District Business Partnership website under the Business tab. For further information on the program please reach out to: Ashley Cunningham Avery, Executive Director acunningham@gdbp.ca.