A COLLABORATION BETWEEN PIMA COUNTY
AND THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Frequently Asked Questions

BUSINESS SAFETY & BEAUTIFICATION GRANT

Supporting small businesses across Pima County with funding to make improvements that create a safer, stronger, and more welcoming community.

- MURALS & SIGNAGE
- LIGHTING
- LANDSCAPING
- SECURITY CAMERAS
- GRAFFITI REMOVAL
- POWER WASHING
- STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENTS
- AND OTHER ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

UP TO **$10,000** FOR ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

LEARN MORE AND APPLY AT **SoAZHCC.org**

START HERE

Your guide to applying

Find the answers you need, understand the process, and prepare a complete application.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

MAXIMUM AWARD
Up to $10,000

APPLICATIONS OPEN
October 30, 2026

ELIGIBLE LOCATION
Pima County

FUNDING MODEL
Reimbursement

Contents

About the grant & eligibility 3

Eligible improvements 4

Funding & restrictions 5

How to apply 6

Review & notification 7

Checklist, tips & contact 8

Chamber membership is not required to apply. Funding is limited and all proposed improvements are subject to program review and approval.

01 / GETTING STARTED

About the grant & eligibility

Who the program serves, how it works, and who can apply.

Why was this program created?

Small businesses create jobs, provide essential goods and services, and contribute to the character of Southern Arizona. The program encourages investment in local businesses and the places where people shop, dine, work, and gather.

Who administers the grant?

The Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce administers the program in partnership with Pima County. Chamber membership is not required.

Eligibility requirements

- Business must be located in Pima County.
- A Tax ID number / EIN is required.
- For-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations may apply.
- An active business license is required.
- A physical brick-and-mortar storefront is required; mobile businesses are not eligible.
- Applicants must be in good standing with local and state regulations.
- Businesses must have 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees (two part-time employees equal one FTE under the stated program rule).

Common eligibility questions

Can a home-based business apply?

No. The program is intended for businesses operating from commercial locations.

Can a franchise apply?

Possibly. Eligibility depends on ownership structure and program requirements.

Can a tenant apply?

Yes. Written property-owner approval may be required for improvements.

02 / PROJECT POSSIBILITIES

Eligible improvements

Examples of improvements include, but are not limited to, the following:

BEAUTIFICATION

- Exterior painting
- Façade and storefront upgrades
- Signage and window enhancements
- Outdoor seating and decorative lighting
- Murals and public art

SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

- Security cameras and alarm systems
- Exterior lighting
- Security gates and fencing
- Roll-down security doors
- Visibility enhancements

PLACEMAKING

- Landscaping and shade structures
- Planters and entryway improvements
- Walkway improvements
- Community-facing art installations

CLEAN-UP & RESTORATION

- Graffiti removal and pressure washing
- Landscape clean-up
- Exterior repairs
- Trash enclosure improvements

Examples are illustrative, not a guarantee of approval. All projects must meet the program requirements and be approved through the review process.

03 / FUNDING & LIMITS

Funding & restrictions

Understand what may be covered, how awards are determined, and when funds are paid.

POTENTIAL GRANT AWARD

UP TO $10,000

NO MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED

How much funding is available?

Eligible businesses may receive up to $10,000 for approved improvements. The award depends on project scope, cost, impact, and available funds. Not every project receives the maximum.

When are funds paid?

This is a reimbursement-based grant. Awarded funds are received after the approved work has been completed.

Is funding first come, first served?

Not necessarily. Funding is limited, and the cycle closes when all available funds have been awarded. Complete applications are encouraged as soon as applicants are ready.

Can a business receive multiple grants?

No. A business may receive only one award in this funding cycle.

Expenses not eligible for funding

- Payroll, rent or mortgage payments, inventory, vehicles, and debt repayment
- Website development and marketing or advertising expenses
- Equipment not visible to customers

Additional project questions

Are interior improvements eligible?

Yes, if the improvements are visible to the public.

What about routine maintenance or equipment?

Routine maintenance is generally excluded unless program guidelines specify otherwise. Equipment may qualify only when directly related to an approved improvement.

04 / APPLICATION PROCESS

How to apply

Prepare your information and submit your application through the Chamber website.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

OCTOBER 30, 2026

SoAZHCC.org

What to have ready

- Business and ownership information
- Photographs of the property
- Description of the proposed improvements
- Cost estimates or contractor bids
- Written property-owner approval, if applicable
- Any additional documentation requested by the program

Application deadline

The source FAQ states that applications will not be accepted within 120 days before June 30, 2027, or once the grant fund is depleted, whichever occurs first.

Important: The final calendar cutoff should be confirmed by program administrators before public release. Funding may be exhausted earlier.

05 / SELECTION PROCESS

Review & notification

What happens after you submit your application.

How applications are evaluated

- Project readiness
- Community impact
- Safety improvements
- Beautification benefits
- Completeness of the application
- Available funding

Who reviews applications?

A Review Committee established by the Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Pima County evaluates applications.

When will I hear back?

Applications are typically reviewed during the first week of each month. The program aims to notify applicants of their status by the end of the month following submission.

ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE

November 15: Application submitted and receipt confirmed.

Early December: Application reviewed.

By the end of December: Target notification of application status.

Review and notification times are goals, not guaranteed deadlines.

06 / READY TO APPLY

Checklist & contact

A final review before submitting your application.

Application checklist

- ☐ Business license (if applicable)
- ☐ Contractor estimate(s)
- ☐ Clear photographs of the property
- ☐ Property-owner approval (if leasing)
- ☐ Description of proposed improvements
- ☐ Business and contact information

What makes a strong application?

- Explain why the project matters, not just what will be built.
- Show the existing condition with clear, high-quality photos.
- Describe how improvements will make the business safer or more welcoming.
- Include complete, realistic contractor or vendor estimates.
- Explain benefits for customers and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Submit all requested documentation.

QUESTIONS? WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

Caroline Barragan | Grant Manager
Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
(520) 620-0005 • BSBG@SoAZHCC.org
SoAZHCC.org