

Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Commission
520 Main Street
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

**Mt. Vernon Downtown Façade
2026 Grant Program**

Schedule for Application and Award of Grants

Applications will be accepted beginning March 1, 2026 through May 1, 2026. If mailed, the application must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2026.

It is anticipated Applicants receiving grants will be announced on or before June 1, 2026.

Grant Recipients will be required to complete improvement by August 1. 2027.

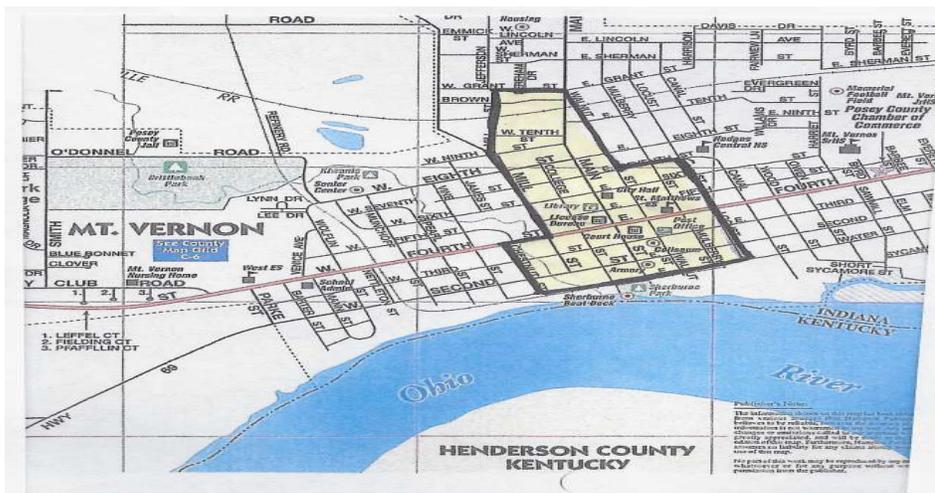
Program Details and Motivations

The Mt. Vernon Downtown Façade Grant Program is utilized as a tool to help revitalize local business and buildings in Mt. Vernon’s Downtown business district as part of the Downtown Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Plan. The creation of a more aesthetically pleasing Downtown district is paramount to encouraging both residents of and visitors to Mt. Vernon to invest in the local economy and establishing a greater sense of community pride.

Program Eligibility, Funds, Description and Requirements

a. Façade Grant Eligibility

Eligible locations for the Façade Grant Program are established within the highlighted area below within the City of Mt. Vernon. All participating businesses must be current on real estate tax payments.



The Façade Grant Program is meant for outdoor aesthetic renovation and improvement of the structural integrity of buildings. The program will not provide assistance for indoor improvements and/or renovations. Ideally, this program will cover the front sides of buildings, but exceptions can be allowed for side and rear walls if they face a public right of way, pedestrian-centered area or it is determined improvements will improve the structural integrity or legal access to a building.

With this in mind, the following renovations include a non-exclusive listing of projects eligible for façade grant assistance:

- Full façade
- Windows
- Doors
- Masonry retouching
- Awnings
- Outdoor painting
- Signage
- Roofing
- Sidewalks or other legal accessibility measures
- Conversion of rock parking lot to paved parking lot

b. Matching Funds

The Redevelopment Commission is currently considering applications for qualifying projects which can result in a total amount of \$50,000.00 being used by the Commission as matching funds. The Commission will reimburse and match the applicant's spending up to the lesser of one-half (1/2) of the applicant's improvement costs or a maximum of \$12,500.00 of an accepted project.

Potential applicants are required to provide proof of initial financial resources during the application process, preferably with signed confirmation from a financial institution.

c. Project Description

Full Façade

Full façade projects must ensure that their first floor is pedestrian-friendly, with consideration given to any upper stories to ensure that design and structural integrity are maintained. Full façade projects must also take full aesthetic consideration of the building in relation to other nearby buildings.

Windows

Only clear glass is allowed in the use of storefront buildings. Reflective glass and any security gates are prohibited. Applicants are encouraged to make storefront windows as large as possible. Energy-efficient windows that are not completely opaque, but have some degree of tinting, may be acceptable. Any window project must comply with local ordinances.

Doors

The grant will cover door repair/restoration, repainting, or replacing if necessary. Energy- efficient doors and entryways are also acceptable. Applicants are encouraged to keep the aesthetic and design standards in mind when replacing and repainting doors.

Masonry Retouching

The grant will cover low-pressure cleaning and painting for brick and other masonry works. The grant will also cover point-and-tuck restoration and improvements to grout or brick replacement, but the structural integrity must be verified before work can begin or continue.

Awnings

Awning colors should complement the building as well as any adjacent buildings and should be scaled in proportion to the architectural elements of the building.

Outdoor Painting

Colors that maintain a positive connection with the Downtown district and its surrounding buildings are encouraged. Any cracks or deterioration in the building surface must be repaired prior to painting. Applicants are highly encouraged to utilize paint that will last for a significant amount of time.

Signage

Signage improvements shall comply with any County and City ordinances regulating signs within the Downtown district.

Structural Integrity

Improvements which are not visible from a public way or pedestrian path will be considered if determined to improve the structural integrity of a building.

c. Requirements for Grant Application and Approval

In order to receive funding, each grant application must be approved by the Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Commission. The Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Commission may request an individual consultation with any applicant whose project is in consideration for funding following the submission of their application. You will be contacted if an individual consultation is requested. Drawings, complete with square footage of the building before and after renovation, may be required for the application process so that Mt. Vernon building codes, ordinances, and regulations are fully met.

If approved, the applicant will provide to the Commission documentation verifying inspection results of the property. The applicant will also submit before and after photos to keep the Commission informed of the project's progress and completion. Applicants may need to obtain a building permit for required inspections during the construction phase, depending upon the scope of the alterations. Design assistance may be provided to ensure that renovations fit the necessary design/aesthetic standards.

d. Applications and Allocation of Funds

Applications for the Mt. Vernon Downtown Façade Grant Program are accepted according to an application period approved by the Commission. The Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Commission will review applications during a specific program period. Applicants will have one calendar year from approval to successfully complete the project. Extensions may be given on a case-by-case basis based on verified progress of the project. Failure to complete the project by the specified completion date will result in forfeiture of the provided funds. Any unspent funds remaining upon the project's completion will be retained in the Mt. Vernon Downtown Façade Grant Program to be utilized on future projects.

Grants will be awarded according to a scoring by the Commission and during a specified project period, with the scoring being based upon the general level of improvement of the renovation and the overall impact the project will provide to the Downtown district. Repeat applicants are allowed. Applicants must provide a minimum of one quote from a contractor to display suitable time investment and preparation and must also keep the Commission informed of any changes in these quotes from contractors in both preliminary and final approval in the work. Selected contractors must be licensed to work in Posey County, with higher priority given to projects involving local-based contractors. Quotes from an applicant seeking to perform the improvement work themselves will not be accepted.

Allocated funds shall either be distributed (a) upon completion of the project or (b) as work progresses due to the scale of the project. The actual payment of funds will be distributed to the contractor directly. Progress reports with partial distributions shall be required once a month to process payment.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should review the Mt. Vernon Downtown Façade Grant Program Scoresheet to ensure that their project will meet the specified criteria. After reviewing the scoresheet, applicants must then submit the following materials:

- Completed Mt. Vernon Downtown Façade Grant Program Application, with a current photo of the property attached to the Application
- At least one (1) quote from a contractor(s)

Tenants may submit applications with signed consent from the property owner. Application and other documentation may be submitted by mailing to:

Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Commission
c/o Façade Grant Program
520 Main Street
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

The application can be personally delivered to the Mayor's Office,
City Hall, 520 Main St., Mt. Vernon

CHECKLIST

- _____ Façade Improvement Application

- _____ Letter from Financial Institution or Copy of Bank Statement verifying availability of funds

- _____ Quote from at least one Contractor for total cost of improvements. Quotes from an applicant seeking to perform the improvement work themselves will not be accepted.

- _____ Photo(s) of Property

- _____ If Applicant is a tenant, signed consent from property owner

- _____ If property is not presently in use, a plan for how the property is to be used upon completion of improvements

**FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT APPPLICATION
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

The Mount Vernon Redevelopment Commission reserves the right to reject any application which does not provide a requisite amount of information for scoring.

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Applicant's Name:		
Business Mailing Address:		
Primary Contact:	Title:	
Telephone Number:		
Email Address:		
Date Business Started:	Number of Years at Present Address:	
Business Ownership: <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
2. PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION		
Name of Property Owner:		
Mailing Address:		
Telephone Number:		
Email Address:		
3. PROPERTY PROFILE		
Street Address:	Township:	
	Tax Parcel Number:	
What is the True Tax Value of the property, as determined by current records of the Posey County Assesor?		
Real Estate Tax Paid/Yr: \$	/Year 20__	Applicant: <input type="checkbox"/> Owns <input type="checkbox"/> Leases Business Property <input type="checkbox"/> Project Engineer/Contractor
If Leased Identify Term of Lease and Lessee Information: (Attach copy of Lease)		
Name of Lessee 1:	Lease Term	
Name of Lessee 2 (if applicable):	Lease Term	
Square Feet of Building:	% of Building Used for Commercial Purposes:	Year Building Constructed:

**FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT APPLICATION
MOUNT VERNON REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Briefly describe the type of business operation(s) presently housed in the building:

Describe the improvements you plan to undertake if awarded grant:

Will the planned building improvements result in the creation of any new jobs? If yes, identify how many will be full-time and how many will be part-time.

Are you aware of any historical or architectural significance associated with the building? If yes, please explain.

Project Costs	Building Exterior Renovations	\$
	Other Associated Project Costs*	\$
	Begin Improvements (MM/DD/YY)	
	Complete Improvements (MM/DD/YY)	
	Occupancy/Start-up (MM/DD/YY)	

4. PROJECT FINANCING

Financing Request Breakdown (Provide Names)	Requested Façade Improvement Grant Amount	\$
	Bank Loan -	\$
	SBA Loan -	\$
	Owner Equity -	\$
	Total	\$

5. EXISTING LOANS/DEBTS ON BUSINESS/PROPERTY*

Name & Address of Lender	Original Amount of Loan/Debt	Unpaid Loan/Debt	Monthly Payment	Date Loan/Debt Matures
	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	
	\$	\$	\$	

*Use additional sheets if needed

**FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT APPLICATION
MOUNT VERNON REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

6. APPLICATION CERTIFICATION	
The undersigned certifies that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information contained in this loan application and in the accompanying statements and documents is true, complete and correct. The undersigned agrees to notify the City of Mount Vernon Redevelopment Commission of any material changes. It is further agreed that whether or not the grant is herein applied for is approved, the undersigned will pay or reimburse the City of Mount Vernon Redevelopment Commission for costs, if any, of surveys, credit review, appraisals, etc. performed by the Commission with the consent of the applicant. The applicant agrees to furnish any additional information to the Commission as needed to review and consider this grant request.	
7. SIGNATURE/DATES	
Applicant's Signature:	Title:
Printed Name:	Date of Application:

APPLICATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The above information and attached exhibits, to my knowledge and belief, are true and correct, and in compliance with the City of Mt. Vernon Redevelopment Commission.

Signature of Applicant

Print Name and Title

Mount Vernon Downtown Façade Grant Program Scoresheet

The following evaluation sheet will be used by the Mount Vernon Redevelopment Commission in reviewing and selecting candidates for the Façade Grant Program. Each project will receive a score based on the various criteria below. Those projects that receive the highest scores will be given the highest priority for the current application cycle. Applicants whose projects are not selected for the current cycle will receive feedback from the Mount Vernon Redevelopment Commission so that they may improve their applications in the future.

I. Implementation

Applicants will have until July 1, 2026 to complete the façade project. The applicant should ensure that they have the necessary financial resources to complete to proposed improvements. If the applicant has provided a letter from their financial institution or a copy of a bank statement verifying they have the needed resources available, they will receive the full 15 points. If they show no evidence of financial commitment to the project, they should receive no points.

SCORE (0-15 points): _____

II. Project Significance

Questions the applicant should consider for this category include:

- How will this project improve the Downtown district?
- Is the property in danger of being lost or does it produce a safety hazard due to deferred maintenance?
- Does the property present an undesirable appearance to the district as a whole?
- Is the property currently in use or if not, has applicant provided a viable plan of action for future use?
- What is the property's significance in the district, such as age or functionality?
 - Older buildings with exceptional significance to the district should hold higher priority.

Those applications that are deemed to be the most significant to the vitality and future success of Downtown Mount Vernon will receive the highest scores in this category.

SCORE (0-15 points): _____

III. Project Visibility and Appropriateness

The goal of the Façade Grant Program is to revitalize our Downtown district through improvements to aesthetic features. As such, applicants should address the following questions that will determine the score for this category:

- How visible is the property and proposed improvements?
- How much of an improvement will the project make towards the property's appearance?
 - Property/facades facing public streets and travel routes will be given higher priority.
- Are the proposed improvements appropriate for the property?

SCORE (0-20 points): _____

Official Scoresheet

Category	Score
Implementation (15 pts)	
Project Significance (15 pts)	
Project Visibility and Appropriateness (20 pts)	
TOTAL SCORE (50 pts)	