

HOMETOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The City of Panama City ("City") is currently seeking public interest in a potential funding opportunity for commercial property façade improvements through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program. The City has until April 16, 2021 to apply to the DEO Rebuild Florida Hometown Revitalization Program for eligible commercial properties that meet the program guidelines.

Has this program ever been offered?

No, this is a new program being offered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The City will continue to work closely with the State throughout the application process for clarification and guidance to ensure maximum program participation.

Who determined the eligibility requirements to participate in this program?

The Hometown Revitalization Program is a State program that is being administered through the City. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has determined the eligibility requirements and the City of Panama City must follow them in order to participate.

What are the eligibility requirements for this program?

The State developed their action plan in response to the Department of Housing and Urban Development directives. In order to meet those directives, the State will consider projects that meet the following criteria:

- Benefit low and moderate income (LMI) families
- Address a clear unmet need
- Are located in one identifiable and connecting commercial area
- Include at least three (3) multiple and separate commercial businesses

Participating businesses MUST:

- Be owned and controlled by person(s) who are eligible to work in the U.S.
- Have been established on or before October 10, 2018
- Be registered with the state of FL
- Have employed at least two (2) full time employees prior to October 10, 2018
- Currently employ at least two (2) full time employees

Businesses CANNOT:

- Derive one-third of profit from gambling
- Present live performances of an indecent sexual nature
- Derive more than 2.5% revenue through the selling of products that are of an indecent sexual nature
- Be massage parlors, hot tub facilities, or escort services

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How were the target areas identified?

The City identified target areas by **applying the State guidance**. The designated project areas are located in low- and moderate-income (LMI) areas, in one connecting commercial zone, and consist of at least three (3) separate commercial businesses.

How much money is the City asking for?

Each proposed project must meet minimum award amount of \$250,000 and may not exceed the maximum award of \$15,000,000. The City will be able to determine the needed amount once all interest participation forms have been reviewed.

How much can each business expect to receive?

The City cannot accurately estimate the amount that each business may be eligible for until all of the interest forms are received, and the State announces their funding decisions. Once the City has a full understanding of the scope of work requested by interested businesses and knows the total amount that has been awarded by the State, if any, the City can determine how much may be available for each business that is deemed eligible.

What if my business is not located in one of the designated project areas?

The City is accepting all participation interest forms at this time. If enough participation interest forms are received in other areas that meet the State's minimum qualifications, the City will consider developing a separate application. If your business is not located in one of the designated areas and you are interested in participating, please submit a participation form so that the City can identify any new potential project areas.

Where can I fill out the interest form online?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F7VVLQB>

Where can I find more information about this program?

Please visit www.pcgov.org for more information.

Can these funds be used to reimburse businesses for completed repairs to damage caused by Hurricane Michael?

No, these funds cannot be used for reimbursement.

Do my requested improvements have to be tied back to storm damage or is it just general façade improvement?

This program is designed to provide both storm damage repairs and general façade improvements to businesses that were damaged by Hurricane Michael. Requested repairs or improvements do not have to be directly caused by Hurricane Michael. However, the business **MUST** have experienced some sort of physical damage caused by Hurricane Michael.

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Could these funds be used for interior improvements?

The City's applications will focus on exterior façade improvements and repairs only at this time.

If I am leasing the property, can I still apply?

Yes, you can. However, the building owner will need to agree.

What if my business moved locations after October 10, 2018, am I eligible in my new location?

If your current location had a was occupied by a business prior to Hurricane Michael, then yes, you would be eligible. If you moved into a building after October 10, 2018 that was vacant prior to October 10, 2018, DEO has determined that you would not be eligible.