



MANITOU SPRINGS URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY (MSURA)

FACADE AND SITE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

MSURA Mission Statement: The mission of the Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority is to encourage private investment and reinvestment in targeted areas while strengthening the tax base of the whole city. The Authority promotes partnerships and collaboration with other groups to advance the City's goals of sound urban planning, fiscal prudence and cultural sensitivity. Through multiple project initiatives, our objective is to facilitate the development of balanced, sustainable environments where people live, work and come together as a community.

1. Urban Renewal Area Boundaries:

The East Corridor Urban Renewal Area is located at the east edge of Manitou Springs. The boundaries are north: El Paso Blvd., south: US 24, west: US 24 interchange with Manitou Ave., east: Manitou Springs city limit (east archway)

2. Purpose

The purpose of the MSURA Grant Program is to provide financial incentives to encourage property owners to undertake site improvements that will improve the overall appearance of existing buildings or property. The program will assist with projects that add new or upgrade infrastructure resulting in increased business activity or provide housing opportunities within the urban renewal area.

3. Eligible Applicants:

- Property must be located within the boundaries of the urban renewal area.
- Property owners or tenants of commercial property may apply for grants.
- Tenants must have written approval of the property owner to undertake the improvements.

4. Grant Amount

- The applicant is required to provide 50% of the total required funding.
- Funds are to be used for capital expenditures only (no soft costs).
- The grant amount from MSURA will not exceed \$25,000. Only one grant may be submitted by an applicant per year.
- Grant awards are subject to availability of funds.
- Applicants must be in good standing with the City of Manitou Springs by payment of taxes and assessments.

5. Application Process

Applicant will provide the following information:

- Completed application.
- Description of improvements in as much detail as possible
- Pictures or architectural plans of proposed improvements. Paint samples if façade color will change.
- Detailed cost estimate. Include two competitive bids from contractors.
- Submit schedule for initiating and completing the work. Work must be started within 3 months of the approval date and be completed within 12 months of approval.

606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, Co 80829

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- Evidence of project funding for applicant share of costs.

6. Selection and Implementation

- Submit application to:
Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority
606 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
Or by email: Jwr520@gmail.com
- Meet with MSURA staff on site to review project.
- Applicant to present the request at a monthly meeting of the MSURA Board and answer questions. Staff will make a recommendation to the URA Board for approval/disapproval.
- Staff inspect the completed work to document completion of the work as presented.
- URA will reimburse the applicant for 50% of the cost upon completion of the work and presentation of invoices or receipts for materials used in the work and lien releases from contractors.
- Certification of inspections from the city departments, regional building dept. and Colorado Springs Utilities (if applicable) must be provided where applicable.

7. Examples of Eligible Activities

- Exterior painting (submit colors)
- Restoring or improving exterior finishes (masonry, stucco, wood, etc.)
- Window or door repair/replacement
- New or repaired exterior signage.
- New roofing, gutters and downspouts
- Outdoor seating/patios
- Awnings, canopies, balconies or architectural features
- External lighting
- Landscaping
- Parking lot and pedestrian walkway upgrades
- Drainage improvements, curb, gutter and/or sidewalk
- Exterior art or sculpture