



Building Improvement Grant (BIG) 2026 Application

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PERSON, BY MAIL or E-MAIL. MAIL OR IN-PERSON TO: OPELOUSAS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, 5367 I-49 S. SERVICE RD., OPELOUSAS, LA 70570. MAILED APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 30, 2026. E-MAILS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO: BRITTANY CRETCHIN AT brittanyc@stlandryed.com OR MELANIE LEBOUF AT tourism@cityofopelousas.com

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION IN YOUR APPLICATION. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

Grant Amount Requested: _____ Total Cost of Project _____

Category of work: ___ Interior ___ Exterior ___ Both

Applicant name: _____

Applicant mailing address: _____

Applicant E-Mail Address: _____

Applicant's contact number: _____

Building name or LLC: _____

Applicant is building owner: ___ Yes ___ No Other: _____

Applicant is merchant/tenant: ___ Yes ___ No Other: _____

Project/building address: _____

Is this building over 50 years old? ___ Yes ___ No _____ Age of Building (if known)

Is building located in the Main Street District ___ Yes ___ No

Is building located in the Historic District? ___ Yes ___ No

Date current business opened? _____

Is this building Vacant/Not Occupied ___ Yes ___ No If yes, please use the narrative section of this grant application to specify if there is a plan to bring the building back into commerce within the next six months (Required).

Have you previously received funds from the Building Improvement Grant? ___ Yes ___ No

If so, which year(s) received? _____

Is the business owned or operated by a minority (women, veteran, African American or Black owned, LGBTQ, etc?)
 _____ Yes _____ No _____ (Minority Represented)

Scope of Work

Note in **bullet-point** fashion all work to be performed with grant funds, including the dollar amount associated with each and a total. **MUST include** copies of signed/dated contractor estimates. Additional pages may be included if necessary. **Applications that are not complete will be disqualified.**

- _____ \$ _____
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- _____ \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Narrative

Please answer the following questions. Please type and submit on a separate sheet. This is your opportunity to effectively communicate the value and impact of the project. The narrative allows applicants to highlight the significance of the project, demonstrate the potential outcomes and showcase why it deserves funding. The narrative is heavily weighted in application scoring. Applications without a narrative will automatically be disqualified. Note: Please answer all questions individually.

(Note: When replacing doors, windows, railings, canopies, or other architectural components applicants must provide specific details regarding those replacements. See Secretary of the Interior Standards for further clarification or contact Melanie Lebouef at the Opelousas Main Street Office.)

1. Describe your project. Outline the scope of your project, including specific improvements or restorations you plan to make. Detail the materials and methods you will use, ensuring they are appropriate for the building's age and architecture. Explain how the project will enhance the building's structural integrity, aesthetics, or functionality. Include timelines and any professional services or tradespeople you will engage. If building is not currently in use for commerce, detail plans and timeline for returning it to use.

2. Explain the need for the project and/or impact on the building. Will it have an impact on the district or community? Discuss the current condition of the building and why these improvements are necessary. Highlight the potential risks of not undertaking the project, such as further deterioration or safety hazards. Emphasize the positive outcomes of the project, such as preserving a piece of history, improving the aesthetic appeal of the area, increasing property values, or providing new community amenities. Explain how the project aligns with broader community goals, such as economic development, tourism, or cultural enrichment.

3. Describe the building and its historic significance (if any). If possible, describe the architectural style, date of construction, and any notable features of the building. Highlight any historical significance, including its original purpose, any historical events that took place there, previous owners, and its role in the community's history. Provide details on whether the building is part of a historic district or has any designations, such as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Applicant Signature Page

I, _____, ensure my grant project is in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the ODDD/OMS Building Improvement Grant Program. I further certify that my grant project is in compliance with all city, state, and federal laws, regulations, ordinances, codes, occupational licenses, taxes, etc. I do understand that BIG funds are given upon fund availability and my project's impact on the district. I also agree to begin the grant project within 45 days of the grant agreement being signed by both parties.

Applicant's Signature Date

Please print name

Building Owner's Signature (if building is not owned by applicant) Date

Please print name