

August 20, 2024



**RE: New Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program!**

Dear Hemet Businesses,

The City of Hemet is excited to announce a new Commercial Façade Improvement Program competitive grant program! This initiative is designed to support the enhancement of our City's commercial areas by providing financial assistance to businesses for exterior improvements. The grant application window opens on **Tuesday, September 3, 2024** and runs for 60 days to allow you time to consider various external improvements for your business.

The Program aims to revitalize our City's commercial districts, making them more attractive and inviting for residents and visitors alike. Improving the exterior appearance of your Hemet business will improve the overall aesthetic appeal of our community, be more inviting to shoppers, and enhance the value of your property.

**Small-Business Grants (Up to \$30,000)** – The Small Business Program is limited to the Downtown Specific Plan Area with a preference for improvements on Florida Avenue between San Jacinto Street and State Street (see attached map for eligible locations). This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$30,000 for commercial building façade improvements and requires only a 5% matching requirement. Updating exterior signs, adding lighting, painting, new awnings, and other improvements are eligible under this program. Projects must be completed within six months of the grant approval or building permit issuance. Museums and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply as well.

**Macro-Business Center Grant (Up to \$660,000)** – The Macro-Business Center Grant is intended to incentivize an investment in a distressed large shopping center. Grant recipients are required to contribute a minimum of 20% of the total façade improvement costs. Projects must be completed within 18 months of building permit issuance. The total cost of the improvement work must exceed \$350,000.

We encourage all eligible businesses to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity and to prepare and apply. All applications will be reviewed by City staff for eligibility and presented to the Planning Commission for review and potential award. Investing in your business's exterior not only benefits your business but also contributes to the broader goal of making the City of Hemet a more beautiful and thriving community.

The City of Hemet looks forward to seeing the exciting improvements that will come from this grant program and to working together to enhance the beauty and vitality of Hemet's commercial districts.

Best regards,

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