



Planning and Economic Development Department
Urban Renewal Section
71 Main Street West, 7th Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5
Phone: (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2755
Fax: (905) 546-2693

THE “GORE” BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Gore Building Improvement Grant Program (the “Program”) was developed to support the maintenance, attractiveness, functionality and viability of the historic building stock that fronts on King Street East between James Street and Catharine Street, known as the “Gore”. The Program is intended to provide financial assistance to bring existing properties to present-day Property Standards and Sign By-law requirements and, to improve their accessibility.

The Program supports an objective of the Downtown Secondary Plan: conserve and enhance the Gore as the primary landscaped open space and concentration of heritage buildings in Downtown Hamilton.

Applications under the Program will be accepted to the end of December 2014 (subject to the availability of funding). Improvements funded under the Program must be completed no later than August 1, 2015.

PROGRAM TERMS

1. Property owners and, tenants authorized in writing by the owner, are eligible to apply for a grant under the program. One grant per property. A property to be defined by a property deed.
2. Two (2) separate cost estimates of the work to be provided by a licensed contractor other than the owner. Owner may present an estimate but is required to have at least two prepared by contractors. The grant will be calculated based upon lowest cost estimate, and is not to address cost increases or over runs. In the case where the applicant is the owner of a contracting company and wishes to utilize the company to undertake the improvements, one (1) cost estimate will be required. A Building Inspector will review all estimates provided for the purpose of ensuring competitiveness.
3. Applicants will be required to provide a business case that identifies how the improvements will improve the marketability of the property for prospective tenants and/or improve the business vitality and/or utilize formerly under-utilized upper floors.

4. Grants will be paid on a matching basis up to a maximum of \$50,000 for eligible work under the Program.
5. A building inspector will perform initial inspection relative to the proposed improvements, and subsequent final inspection to assure compliance with Property Standards.
6. Approval of the grant is at the sole discretion of the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department and subject to the availability of funds.
7. Proposed improvements to be completed within one year to be eligible for payment. A one year extension can be authorized by the Manager of Urban Renewal.
8. Work completed must be consistent with estimates, and work proposed and identified within the application unless previously discussed and approved by the Urban Renewal Section.
9. The Applicant shall provide to the City's Urban Renewal Section copies of paid invoices for all work undertaken on the property for which the grant is applicable. This documentation is to be provided prior to the final inspection.
10. A City Building Inspector's final inspection report confirming all works have been carried out satisfactorily will be provided prior to release of any grant monies.
11. At the sole discretion of the Manager of Urban Renewal, partial payments for works completed can be processed consistent with the payment process described above.
12. At the sole discretion of the Manager of Urban Renewal, the grant cheque can be made jointly payable to the applicant and the contractor if such a request has been received from the applicant.
13. The grant is not transferable upon sale of the property.
14. The grant may also be received by an owner in conjunction with any other available City program in support of the redevelopment/development of the property with the exception of the Hamilton Downtown Commercial Façade Property Improvement Grant Program.
15. An application fee of \$320 is payable upon submission of application. The fee will be authorized through a by-law passed by City Council. The rate of the fee may be changed from time to time as approved by City Council.
16. Without limiting the discretion as set out in paragraph 6 herein, the City, Council, whether or not an Applicant satisfies the requirements of the Program, may reject any application received from an applicant where, in the opinion of Council, the commercial relationship between the City and the Applicant has been impaired by, but not limited to, the applicant being involved in litigation with the City. Applicants are individuals; corporate entities and individuals behind the corporation (Officers/ Directors/ Shareholders).

17. Without limiting the discretion as set out in paragraph 6 herein, the City Council, whether or not an Applicant satisfies the requirements of the Program, may reject any application received from an applicant where there are property tax arrears owed on the subject property or on other properties owned by the Applicant within the City of Hamilton.
18. A successful applicant will enter into an agreement with the City containing the terms and conditions (but not limited to) set out in the program description.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Property owners and authorized tenants are eligible.
- Property taxes must be paid current.
- The improvements made to buildings shall be in accordance with Property Standards and in compliance with all applicable City by-laws, official plans, zoning regulations, design guidelines and site plan approvals.
- Improvements commenced prior to submitting an application are ineligible. Improvements commenced after submitting an application but prior to application approval do so at the applicant's risk.
- Properties must front on King Street between James Street and Catharine Street.
- Existing use must be in conformity with the applicable Zoning By-law regulations (including the Heritage Character Zone), and other relevant planning controls.
- This program shall not apply to an existing or proposed Adult Entertainment Parlour, Body Rub Establishment as defined in the Zoning By-law.

ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Signage in conformity with the Sign By-law 06-243 as amended. (Note: the eligible grant amount will be increased to 75% of the cost of installing a sign that is in conformity with the Sign By-law and is replacing a legally non-conforming sign)
- Façade improvements
- Reinforcement of floors, walls, ceilings and foundations
- Required improvements to ventilation systems
- Construction or alteration of stairs, guards, handrails
- Roofing
- Installation or repair of central air-conditioning
- Installation or repair of furnace
- Installation or alteration of required window openings

- Installation or alteration of fire protection systems; fire separations; fire doors, fire shutters and other fire protection devices
 - Improvements for barrier-free accessibility including elevators
 - Other improvements related to health and safety issues deemed eligible at the sole discretion of the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development.
-