



S. MLK CIA Business Grants Guidelines

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The South Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Corridor Improvement Authority's (S.MLK CIA) Business Grant has been established to provide access to capital for small businesses within the corridor's boundaries. By providing financial resources, this grant opportunity is dedicated to supporting projects that strengthen businesses' sustainability along the corridor.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The core objective of the **S. MLK CIA Business Grants** is to support businesses within the S. MLK CIA boundaries by providing access to capital. This financial support is intended to fuel projects that not only foster immediate business sustainability but also propel substantial growth.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible expenses include the following:

- Inventory and supplies
- Exterior improvements
- Software subscriptions
- Marketing and advertising
- Equipment purchases
- Health and safety measures
- Match dollar for other grants

AWARD AMOUNT

Grant awards will range between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Award amounts will be based on the strength of the project proposal, project impact, demonstrated need, and available funds. All awards will be determined at the sole discretion of the S. MLK CIA.



Awards are provided on a competitive basis due to limited resources. In order to be considered for the **S. MLK CIA Business Grants**, applicants must meet each of the eligibility criteria described below:

Small business:

- Small businesses are defined as firms with a size of 50 employees or less and total gross revenue per year of \$1.5 million or less.
- For-profit and select non-profits business based in the City of Lansing's South Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Corridor boundaries. To identify if your business is located in the corridor's boundaries, visit [Corridor Boundaries](#)
- Must not be one of the following business types:
 - Check cashing/payday advance
 - Adult stores/services
 - Packaged Liquor retailer
 - Store that sells firearms
 - Marijuana operations of any kind
 - Storage facilities



APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Submission:** Businesses must submit a complete application, including a project proposal, detailed project budget, financial statements, and additional information as requested.
- **Review:** A panel of reviewers will evaluate each eligible and complete application based on the criteria outlined below.
- **Interview:** Shortlisted applicants may be invited to present their business and project idea to the board. This will be their opportunity to provide additional information or clarification.
- **Selection:** Grants will be awarded based on the application's score and available funding.
- **Award Process:** Upon selection, awardees will be notified and sent Grant Agreements providing terms and conditions of receiving the grant funds.
- **Once Awarded:** The business must give a testimonial for the S.MLK CIA's website

APPLICANT EVALUATION

Businesses will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Project Plan:** Clarity and completeness of the project plan.
- **Sustainability/Growth:** How the project aligns with long-term business sustainability and the likelihood of the project leading to business growth.
- **Capacity & Expertise:** Demonstrated capacity to execute the project efficiently. Demonstrated qualifications and experience of the project team.
- **Financial Stability:** Evidence of financial stability and responsible resource management.
- **Compliance:** Evidence of ability to adhere to program regulations and guidelines in the use of funds.

*Applicants may be asked to provide basic financial information to provide early indication of financial feasibility.



REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- Completed project description and budget (line budget and/or estimates/invoices)
- City of Lansing Department of Treasury & Income Tax Taxpayer Information Verification Form
- City of Lansing Litigation Affidavit
- Proof of Residence in the city of Lansing, if the business operates from a home-based address. (Rental lease, bank statement, utility bill, etc.)
- Proof of Business Operating within the S. MLK CIA boundaries, if business is brick and mortar. (Lease, Deed, etc.)
- Most recent income statement
 - 3 months of bank statements
- W9
- Business Organizing Documents (articles of incorporation)
 - Operating Agreement, if applicable
- Business Overview/ Business Plan

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the S. MLK CIA Business Grants complete the grant application found at www.lansingedc.com/SMLK-grants-program. Download, complete, and upload the appropriate documents with your submission.

DISCLAIMER

The Lansing EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals, waive any formalities or minor technical inconsistencies, or delete or modify any item/requirements from this document when deemed to be in Lansing EDC's best interest. The Lansing EDC also reserves the right to make the final determination of any person's or organization's eligibility and/or qualifications for program benefits, and to make allocation of program benefits as it may, in sole discretion deem appropriate.