

LISBON STAR, FOOD & LODGING and CIVIC & COMMERCE SPONSORED

BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT & BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM 2014 - 2015

Up to \$4,000 matching funds grant for Lisbon business expenses related to the following:

1. Distinct new product line. Directly related expenses such as: Expansion, relocation expenses, signage, displays and/or samples to promote new products or services
2. Distinct new service. Directly related expenses such as: Expansion, relocation expenses, signage, displays and/or samples to promote new products or services
3. New business start-up expense. Priority will be based on the degree the new business offers a distinct new product or service to the community.
4. Facilities upgrade – for increased customer traffic and/or improve the cosmetics of store fronts or main business entrances. Substantial improvements are required. Neglected maintenance, normal wear and tear and minor updating do not qualify. A detailed description of how the changes will bring in additional business or improve the looks and appeal of your business is required on your application form.
5. The Grant Review Committee has the right to grant or refuse any grant application based on their interpretation of the project and its viability. This includes whether or not to grant money multiple times to the same applicant. Each application will be reviewed individually and without bias.
 - Program to be administered by the Lisbon Civic & Commerce and funded by Lisbon's STAR and Food and Lodging committees.
 - A committee will be appointed to review and approve or deny applications
 - Application forms are available from the Civic & Commerce office – 417 Main St. - Sherry Lunneborg
 - Business must be within the Lisbon business area
 - Since increased customer traffic is somewhat subjective a thorough description of how you think it will bring in more customers is required in your project write up.
 - The full matching fund grant requires total expenditures of \$8,000 to get the \$4,000 grant. Lesser and greater amounts qualify but the grant will be smaller for smaller investments but will not exceed \$4,000 for the larger expenditures. Non-C&C members will not receive the C & C portion of the grant.
 - Normal wear and tear and facilities maintenance do not qualify.
 - Grant does not apply to non profit organizations, public or government buildings. They may qualify for normal STAR funding.

- The primary intent is to help provide incentive for businesses to expand their product or service offerings and/or improve the cosmetics of their store's main entrances
- Grants will be paid upon completion of the project. Receipts are required before grant money will be distributed
- Grants will be available for projects that start on or after June 1, 2014 and goes through the end of June 2015.
- Grant funding will be set aside upon project approval. If the scope of your project changes or you are unable to complete the project in the time frame originally stated in the application you must inform the committee of the changes. The committee reserves the right to withdraw funding if your project changes to not meet the original grant criteria.
- There will be a specific dollar amount set aside for the Business Enhancement program and once that money is depleted there will be no additional funding available. Applications received after the available funding has been committed will be denied. Projects denied because of a lack of funding may be resubmitted if projects approved earlier are withdrawn or money requirements are reduced freeing up funds for additional projects. The committee will inform the denied project submitter based on submission date.
- A 6 month results follow-up discussion with the committee is requested. Did the changes meet your expectations? To what extent did the grant have in your decision to initiate the project? Suggestions for other business support initiatives.
- Signage, expansion projects, relocations, etc must meet City of Lisbon guidelines and permits may be required. Check with the City Auditor, if in doubt.

C&C Committee:

2 representatives from each of the sponsoring organizations will make up the review & approval committee.