



Strong Neighborhood Initiative Storefront Improvement Program

This program is managed by the Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City in partnership with Strong Neighborhoods Initiative and funded by The City of Oklahoma City's allocation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Available Assistance

Small businesses in current SNI neighborhoods may be eligible for up to \$25,000 in reimbursement funding for storefront improvements, such as:

- ◆ Facade repair, painting or replacement
- ◆ Window and front door replacement
- ◆ Awnings or window overhangs
- ◆ Permanent signage

How it Works?

Businesses must be physically located in Capitol Hill, Martin Luther King or Metro Park neighborhoods before March 3, 2021.* (See map below.)

Applications will be accepted from January 8, 2024 to February 16, 2024.

Businesses have 6 months[†] after project approval to complete the improvement project and submit for reimbursement.

The following restrictions apply:

- ◆ Business location cannot be zoned residential.
- ◆ Cannabis businesses prohibited.
- ◆ Landlords are ineligible to apply. But businesses that do not own the property they occupy must have landlords consent for work.
- ◆ Previous recipients of OKC Rescue Program façade and storefront improvement funds are not eligible.
- ◆ Cannot have received any other federal funding for the work to be performed.

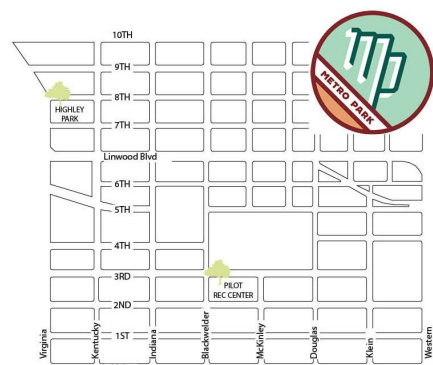
Examples of Previously Funded Projects



Capitol Hill

Martin Luther King

Metro Park



Contact jose.becerril@theallianceokc.org for questions.

* In the event that demand exceed available funding, preference will be given to businesses established at their current locations prior to March 3, 2021. Additional eligibility or restrictions may apply for businesses located adjacent to SNI district boundaries.

† 6 months from the date of applicant qualification or until September 30, 2024, whichever is sooner.

FAQs

What if I cannot front the money to pay the vendor "out of pocket" for the improvement?

Approved businesses may assign their eligible reimbursement payments to their third party banking or lending institutions used to finance the approved improvement projects. Contact the Alliance if you are interested.

Who chooses the project vendors for the SNI Storefront Improvement Program?

The business selects and directly pays the vendor(s) for the SNI Storefront Improvement Program.

How is the vendor paid for the services they render to me?

The business is responsible for all payments to the vendor(s). The business will be reimbursed for qualified expenses upon completion of the project.

Do I receive the money before or after the improvement is complete?

The business must complete the project, submit photos demonstrating the project is complete, turn in copies of paid invoices to receive reimbursement, and fill out a W9 form. Based on the nature of the project, program staff may request a certificate of completion, inspection, or site visit to confirm the project is complete.

Can I be reimbursed for work that is already started?

Yes, as long as the expense is eligible and was begun after March 3, 2021.

How long do I have to finish the project?

The project must be completed at least 6 months from the date of applicant qualification or until September 30, 2024, whichever is sooner.

If I only occupy a portion of my building, can I apply for the SNI Storefront Improvement Program?

Yes, as long as all eligibility requirements are met, the applicant business gets landlord approval for the proposed improvement, and the improvement request is proportional to the space occupied in the entire building in which they occupy.

Once I submit my paid invoices and pictures, how fast until I am reimbursed?

The Alliance will endeavor to reimburse eligible expenses within 30 to 45 days of receipt.

Do I need to receive a permit from the City Development Center?

Yes. You are still required to obtain approval, signage or construction permits, or inspections from the City Development Center. Businesses in Special Zoning Districts (e.g., Urban Design Overlay Districts or Scenic River Overlay Design Districts) may be required to obtain additional approvals, permits, or inspections.

What do you mean when you say a business location cannot be zoned residential?

That means that your business cannot have a zoning designation of: AA, RA2, RA, R-1, R1ZL, R-2, R-3, R-3M, R-4M, R-4, R-MH-1, R-MH-2. Look at [The City's zoning map](#) to see if how your business location is zoned.

If I have received funding from the OKC Rescue Program, do I still qualify for this program?

No. Businesses that have previously received funding from the OKC Rescue Program for Façade and Storefront Improvements do not qualify for this program. The expense cannot have been previously paid for with any form of federal, state or local funding.