

# GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SMALL

The City of Chicago is offering Community Development Grants - Small (CDG-S), helping to create thriving and safe communities. **Projects selected for CDG-S funding strengthen local corridors and enhance neighborhood vitality.** Reimbursable grants up to \$250,000—covering up to 75% of program-eligible expenses—are available.

## Eligible Projects:

- ★ Commercial, mixed-use or light manufacturing projects
- ★ Business owners and entrepreneurs, property owners, non-profits and community developers
- ★ Applicants from all areas of Chicago
- ★ Expansion or renovation for existing businesses
- ★ New locations for start-up businesses or existing businesses
- ★ New construction on vacant land
- ★ Speculative “vanilla box” projects with strong community-oriented goals

## Eligible Costs:

- ★ Major exterior and interior renovations to existing businesses
- ★ Build-outs for incoming businesses:
  - Architectural, permitting, design, engineering and construction fees
  - Roofing, masonry, façade, windows and doors
  - Mechanical systems, such as HVAC, electrical, and plumbing
  - ADA accessibility improvements
- ★ Other items can be included in the total project cost, but may not be reimbursable; all expenses that are submitted will be reviewed and considered

## Application tips:

- ★ **Demonstrate readiness:** Your application can demonstrate readiness by providing a detailed project budget and timeline, construction and design documents, site control documentation and proof of working with an architect.
- ★ **Show project feasibility:** Include a detailed business plan and leadership team summary, share a proven track record of completed projects, and demonstrate that a necessary portion of your overall financing has been secured and permits have been issued.
- ★ **Highlight community impact:** Make the project’s community impact clear by submitting letters of support from community members and officials.
- ★ **Prepare for Due Diligence checks:** Businesses are checked for City debt, Cook County property tax debt and zoning compliance, and business must be in Good Standing with the State of Illinois.

Applications  
close Nov. 8



[Chicago.gov/cdg](https://chicago.gov/cdg)

