

# Commercial Business Grants

## GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The City of Clearwater Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) offers a mix of grants designed to make it easier for existing businesses and new businesses looking to locate within the CRA boundaries. Apply and learn more at [downtownclearwater.com/grants](https://downtownclearwater.com/grants).

### Facade and Interior Improvement Grant Program

Provide grants, up to \$50,000, to assist business owners/commercial tenants within the CRA boundaries in improving the exterior and/or interior of their commercial buildings. Grants are available for up to \$25,000 for façade/exterior work, and up to \$25,000 for interior work to improve commercial ground floor spaces.

### Business Renovation Grant Program

Assist business owners or commercial tenants with funding to renovate occupied spaces with long-term or short-term uses that generate significant downtown pedestrian foot traffic and assist in the CRA mission of blight removal. Grants may be awarded to business owners or commercial tenants for exterior and interior improvements to commercial property within the Downtown CRA boundaries. This program is intended for renovations and repairs of blighted buildings and buildings needing renovation that do not exceed a total project cost of \$200,000.

### Vacancy Reduction Grant Program

Assist property owners with exterior and interior renovations and repairs of commercial property within the CRA boundaries to reduce ground floor vacancies in commercial buildings. This program is intended for large renovations and repairs and the maximum CRA grant is \$500,000 for Part A and \$500,000 for Part B. Grants cannot be awarded retroactively for work completed prior to a grant award.

### Restaurant Operations: Essential Equipment Grant Program

Provide micro-grants up to \$3,500 to assist Food & Beverage (F&B) operators with the purchase or repair of essential equipment needed to effectively operate F&B establishments. Grants may be awarded to brick & mortar, F&B establishments within the Downtown CRA boundaries.

### Downtown Gateway Business Economic Recovery Grant Program

Provide one-time economic recovery grants, up to \$25,000, to assist business owners/commercial tenants located in the Downtown Gateway District from 1379 - 1499 Gulf to Bay Boulevard, that suffered economic loss directly related to the Cleveland Street Streetscape Phase III project. Grants are available for up to \$25,000 for making rent or mortgage, and/or public utility bill payments on behalf of the business.

### Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Program

Offer financial assistance to qualified business owners or commercial tenants seeking to furnish approved sidewalk café areas within the Downtown Core District. The grant program makes available one-time grants, up to \$7,500 per applicant (which includes the reimbursement for the \$50 Sidewalk Café Permit), for outdoor furniture specified in an approved site plan as specified on approved sidewalk café permit.

### Placemaking and Resident Engagement Grant Program

Provide support and funding to those who are interested in making a positive change through placemaking, which assists in transforming the Downtown CRA into a destination filled with a variety of active, beautiful, and creative public places. Placemaking projects may be spearheaded by residents, nonprofits, community groups, artists, businesses, or property owners who want to transform Downtown Clearwater's public spaces in the following categories: Beautification, Activation, and/or Engagement.

