

CITY OF CORNING

AWNING GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program Overview

The City of Corning Awning Grant Program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the purpose of providing support to businesses impacted by COVID-19. Impacts may include: reduction in revenues, increase in operating costs related to implementing COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics or due to other operating cost increases experienced during the pandemic, business disruption or closure, event cancellation, and/or other similar circumstances during the pandemic that created a financial hardship.

Due to the impacts of the pandemic, many business owners had little opportunity or incentive to invest in the ongoing beautification of their business, resulting in many businesses in need of upgrades to their general appearance. The City of Corning Awning Grant Program will provide a new awning to business owners impacted by COVID-19, thereby enhancing the attractiveness and appeal of the business to potential patrons in downtown Corning on Solano Street between 3rd and 6th Streets and 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets from Solano Street to the alleyways. The program will provide and install a canvas awning to for-profit and non-profit businesses to upgrade and generally improve the appearance of commercial business fronts. Grants will be limited to one grant per business location. Grants are on a first-come first-serve basis. \$250,000 total will be available for the entire Awning Grant program. Grants are considered taxable income and a 1099-MISC will be issued for tax filing purposes. Grantees will be able to choose the color and style of the awning from a select number of choices.

Eligible Uses include but are not limited to the following:

- Fire-Treated and waterproof/resistant Canvas Awnings and canopies
- Color choices: blue, navy blue, black grey, beige/tan, green
- Style choices: Traditional and Quarter round
- Any associated City of Corning permit costs
- Design and Engineering of the awning or canopy

Ineligible Uses include the following activities:

- Light-colored and red awnings are not eligible due to fading that occurs in these colors.
- Any expense that would not be considered an eligible business expense by the IRS rules
- Reimbursement for awnings installed directly by business.
- Any expense incurred prior to March 3, 2021

Eligible business applicants must meet the following criteria:

- For-profit or non-profit 501(c)3 business physically located and operating downtown Corning on Solano Street between 3rd and 6th streets and 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets from Solano Street to the alleyways.
- Demonstrated economic need as a direct result of COVID-19.
- No outstanding local, state, federal tax liens or judgements. This will be verified through a credit check; no minimum credit score required.
- Evidence of a current business license and, if applicable, a Fictitious Business Name Statement.
- Property owners or business owners who own property or who lease property.
- If an applicant is a tenant, a Landlord's Consent must be provided confirming the property owner's approval of the project. A copy of the lease will also be required.
- Not currently debarred by the Federal Government.
- A signed Maintenance and Indemnification Agreement