



The Pharr EDC II Small Business Grant program offers small and emerging for-profit businesses grant assistance to establish or expand into the City of Pharr to support long term success. The program is designed to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, job creation or retention, encourage replacement or rehabilitation of the façade of their storefronts, and encourage small business investing for the economic vitality of the community.

The Pharr Economic Development Corporation II will consider a reimbursement grant of up to five-thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per new businesses and up to ten-thousand (\$10,000.00) per existing businesses. The grantee is responsible for all other expenses accrued through development, improvements and or repairs that exceed the grant amount.

Qualifiable Projects to be funded by the Small Business Grant program include, but will not be limited to:

- Working Capital
- Equipment Purchase
- Signage
- City of Pharr Permit Fees
- Landscaping
- Small Repairs
- Pharr Chamber Membership (GPCC)
- Storefront Improvements - include, but are not limited to window dressing, streetscape, benches, planters, pavers, plaques, banners, lighting, painting, and roof repairs.

Eligibility Requirements

- Business must be new or existing and physically located in the corporate city limits of Pharr.
- Business must be a private, for-profit entity.
- Business must employ between five (5) and fifty (50) employees, including the owner.
- Business has less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in projected gross revenues.

Limitations on grants from the Small Business Grant

- I. Grant amounts will be based on actual costs and will not exceed approved costs for each project.
- II. Business must meet the definition of “small and emerging private business enterprise” defined by this grant program as any private business that employs or will employ fifty (50) or fewer new employees and has less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in projected gross revenues.
- III. PEDC II small business grant will not exceed the level of funds and will typically be between five hundred (\$500) to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for new businesses and five hundred (\$500) to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for existing businesses.
- IV. For consideration, a NEW BUSINESS must be in operation for less than three (3) years in the city of Pharr; EXISTING BUSINESSES must have a minimum of three (3) years in operation in the city of Pharr.
- V. PEDC II small business grant funds will not be used for the development of access streets and roads, parking areas, utilities, or pollution control and abatement facilities.
- VI. PEDC II small business grant funds will not be used to finance comprehensive area-wide type planning. This does not preclude the use of grant funds for planning a given project.
- VII. PEDC II small business grant funds will not be used to fund a part of a project which is dependent on other funding unless there is a firm commitment of the other funding to ensure completion of the project.



- VIII. PEDC II small business grant funds shall not be used to pay off any previous debt or taxes.
- IX. Formal agreements must be completed between the PEDC and PEDC SMALL BUSINESS GRANT recipient in writing and executed by both parties.
- X. Business may only be awarded once every three years.
- XI. Recipient must attend a UTRGV Small Business Development Center business session upon receipt of payment.
- XII. Applications by PEDC II Board Members, staff and their immediate family members shall be ineligible for funding.
- XIII. Home-based businesses and businesses restricted to patrons above the age of 18 are not eligible for assistance (e.g. bars, smoke shops, and sexually oriented businesses)

Other General Grant Criteria:

PEDC II must require, obtain, and review the completed application along with the following documents prior to the approval and distribution of any funds.

1. A Certificate of Occupancy (CO) and either an Assumed Name Certificate/DBA certificate, or proof that the business has filed forms with the city, county, and state.
2. If the applicant is not the building owner (i.e., business owner/tenant), a letter of authorization from the property owners to undertake proposed improvements is required.
3. Copy of Current Lease Agreement
4. Proposed project must include, if applicable:
 - a. Economic Need & Back-up Information for Proposed Use of Funds
 - b. Work-Up Sheet with detailed cost estimates.
 - c. All necessary approvals and permits from the City of Pharr's Development Services Department. (Projects must meet City of Pharr ordinances and code guidelines, including requirements set forth in building ordinance & design guidelines, as appropriate.)
5. Acquiring a photograph of subject property before and after project completion, if applicable.

*Monitoring of the project and possible on-site interviews may be required.

Funding and Reimbursement

Applications for the PEDC SMALL BUSINESS GRANT will be accepted, dependent on funding availability. Applicants who apply in times when inadequate funds exist for grants, will be informed of the lack of funds. Applications will be reviewed and funded (if eligible) on a case-by-case basis. Approval or denial may be made at the discretion of the President/CEO.

Funding for all approved projects will be dispersed once projects are one hundred percent (100%) complete. Receipts for all purchases and services must be provided for funds to be distributed. Reimbursement check will be processed and can take up to fifteen (15) business days for delivery after submittal of all required documentation.

In accordance with Federal law, applicants will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or marital or family status.