



CRA Disaster Grants Support Greater Frenchtown/Southside Businesses

Strong local businesses are a key component of vibrant communities. As impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt in Tallahassee, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) board unanimously approved and launched a disaster assistance grant program on June 29 to support Greater Frenchtown/Southside (GFS) District small businesses.

The board allocated \$250,000 in funding to aid economically distressed businesses within the GFS District and quickly began distributing grants as a lifeline for business owners. Since the launch of the program, 90 businesses have each received a

\$2,000 grant. Grant recipients represent a wide array of GFS District businesses including restaurants, barbershops and salons, retail shops and more.

Understanding the urgent needs of business owners, the CRA worked to process and distribute funds within 10 days of an approved application on a first-come, first-served basis. As of September 24, \$180,000 in funding has been distributed.

The disaster assistance grant is one of several funding opportunities made available by the CRA. For Fiscal Year 2021, which began on October 1,

applications are currently open for the CRA Business Facility Improvement Program (BFIP). Through the BFIP, businesses can receive up to \$50,000 to fund improvements to the façade of commercial structures and properties located within the boundaries of the GFS district. The first \$20,000 of the grant does not require a match by the applicant. Grant funds from the annual BFIP are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and are available throughout the fiscal year until all funds are committed.

To learn more about other CRA funding programs, visit Talgov.com/CRA.

CRA FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROVED

The CRA's annual budget describes how its funds will be allocated. The Tallahassee CRA's fiscal year is the same as the City of Tallahassee's, from October 1 to September 30. The

budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) was approved by the CRA Board on September 24. The complete budget is available at Talgov.com/CRAbudget.

UPDATES MADE TO THE GREATER FRENCHTOWN/SOUTHSIDE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN



The Greater Frenchtown/Southside (GFS) Redevelopment Plan is a guiding document for CRA programs, projects and activities. It is a critical document for our community and guides how CRA funds are allocated. Updates to the plan are currently in the approval process and expected to move forward with the tentative schedule shared in the box below. Stay informed about the plan and schedule at Talgov.com/CRA.

Updates to the GFS Redevelopment Plan include:

- Priority areas and expanded goals created and ranked by GFS residents and business owners

- Data on two new expansion areas for the GFS District, which added approximately 403 acres of commercial, office and residential properties to the district
- Analysis of the assets and opportunities identified for the eight sub-areas of the GFS District
 - The eight sub-areas are West Tarpe Street, North Monroe Street, Frenchtown, FAMU Way/Lake Bradford, South Monroe/South Adams, Bond Community, Providence Community and South City
- Updated demographics data and land use information

CITY EXPANDS RESIDENTIAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



The City of Tallahassee has expanded the Residential Façade Improvement Grant Program, an element of the Greater Bond Neighborhood First Plan, following a successful first phase.

Approximately \$500,000 is available to fund the program's second round of grants, which provides up to \$17,000 for homeowners to improve the exterior of their home or rental property. The application window recently closed, and grants will be awarded by November 30.

During the first round of the Residential Façade Improvement Program, \$160,000 in grant funding was awarded. This financed renovations, which ranged from exterior paint and new windows to fencing, landscaping and more, on 13 homes.

The program is designed to help preserve and improve the exterior of homes within the Bond Community, a neighborhood located within the

boundaries of the Greater Frenchtown/Southside Community Redevelopment Area (CRA GFS District). To learn more about the program, visit Talgov.com/BondFaçade.

For residents throughout Tallahassee impacted by COVID-19, the City's CARES Home Repair Program (CCHRP) launched on August 26 to improve the living conditions of low- and moderate-income households. The application review and approval process are underway, with \$250,000 in total funds available to help residents remove health and safety hazards and/or architectural barriers from their homes. As of October 14, 12 applications have been approved, which will provide a total of \$78,950 in estimated repairs, and 37 applications are under review.

To learn more about grant programs available, visit Talgov.com/CRA or Talgov.com/Housing.

GFS CAC Acceptance	September 2020
Local Planning Agency Review	January 2021
Seek CRA Board Approval	January 2021
City Commission Public Hearing	March 2021

*Meeting dates, times, and locations subject to change. Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for information, or you may view the current meeting agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow @CityofTLH on Twitter for City news.