



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the goal of the Storefront Renovation Program?

The mission of the City of Cleveland's Storefront Renovation Program is to revitalize, support, and promote the City's neighborhood commercial retail districts. Working towards this mission, the Storefront Program offers financial incentives, combined with free City design assistance, to applicants considering an exterior rehabilitation of a commercial structure.

What financial assistance does the Storefront Renovation Program offer?

A 40% rebate, on eligible expenses, may be available for comprehensive exterior rehabilitations that meet the program's design and eligibility criteria. Depending on the location of your building, you may be eligible for a maximum rebate amount of \$15,000 or \$25,000.

How do I find out if my building is eligible for the Storefront Renovation Program and the maximum rebate amount that I may be eligible to receive?

Contact your local Community Development Corporation (CDC) to begin an assessment of your eligibility and to determine that maximum rebate amount available to your location. A list of CDC contacts can be found on the City of Cleveland's Department of Community Development webpage.

What building types are eligible for the Storefront Renovation Program?

- Traditional commercial buildings (originally built with display windowed storefronts)
- Commercially zoned retail or service buildings

What building types are not eligible for the Storefront Renovation Program?

- Entirely residential buildings
- Schools
- Industrial buildings
- Arcades
- Malls
- Strip shopping plazas
- Houses
- Churches
- Any structure used for sacred purposes

What projects are not eligible for the Storefront Renovation Program?

The Storefront Program is not a maintenance-only program and requires building rehabilitations to be comprehensive in scope and create a visual impact on the main street facade.

Who will determine whether my building is eligible for the Storefront Renovation Program?

Design Specialists at the City of Cleveland will make this determination through your CDC.

What costs are eligible for the Storefront Program?

Eligible improvements are limited to rehab costs for work done to the main elevation(s) most commonly seen by the general public. Typically eligible rehab costs include:

- Storefront display windows
- Upper-floor windows
- Doors
- Exterior security systems
- Awnings
- Signage

What is a "comprehensive rehabilitation?"

Comprehensive refers to an extensive rehabilitation of the front and visible sides of the building that includes not only maintenance, but also a significant visual impact, at the discretion of the City's Design Specialists.

Will anyone help me with develop a design for my rehabilitation?

Yes, the City's Design Specialists will work with you to develop a design that not only meets the goals and requirements of SRP, but also takes your budget and other business concerns into consideration.

Is this a grant?

No, SRP offers a rebate, which is paid out after construction is completed and you have paid for the project in full and submitted the necessary documentation for approval by the City.

When can I start construction on my project?

In order to remain eligible for funding, you may not begin construction on your project until you have entered into a contract with the City of Cleveland.

When can I expect to receive my rebate funds?

Rebate funds are typically mailed to the applicant within 4-6 weeks of completion of the project, including submission of all required documentation.

Who should I contact for additional information or to fill-out an application?

Contact your local CDC for additional information or to apply to the Storefront Renovation Program.