**About the Rockaway Beach Facade Improvement Grant**

The City of Rockaway Beach designed the Facade Improvement Grant to assist in making buildings more attractive and accessible to visitors through repairs, painting, ADA entries and bathrooms, windows, doors, awnings and other projects. First impressions count: the look of a town is its best advertising, and encourages more business development and economic vitality. This grant is funded with lodging tax collected by the city and is compliance with use of the tax as a way to encourage more visitation.

The City of Rockaway Beach is offering a $200,000 grant fund to help tourism-related businesses improve the look of their storefronts. Applicants may request up to $30,000 with no match required (any amount over $30,000 is the responsibility of the business owner).

Awarded grant funds will be provided as follows:

* Once the applicant provides a signed contract to complete the project, the applicant will receive 50% of the total award upfront to assist in getting the project started. Upon completion of the project, submit the paid receipts along with an invoice for the remainder of your award to receive reimbursement.
* Projects must be completed within 12 months from approval of grant or issuance of building permit when required. One additional 3-month extension may be approved and must be requested prior to the initial 12-month deadline.

**Eligible Applicants**

* Property owners of buildings in Rockaway Beach commercial zones that include for-profit, tourism-based businesses.
* Business owners or tenants of commercial buildings operating tourism-based businesses with written consent of property owner.
* Applicants must have a current business license and show proof that property and other taxes are current.
* Applicants may only have one active/open grant at any time with the City of Rockaway Beach.
* Preference will be given to first-time grant recipient

**Not Eligible to Apply**

* Non-profit organizations
* Short-term rental properties and agencies
* Marijuana stores

**Eligible Projects**
Funds must be used for existing exterior façade improvements on commercial buildings supporting the tourism industry in compliance with City of Rockaway Beach ordinances. Funds may also be used to improve ADA access.

* Cleaning, preparation and painting of exterior walls and trim, including murals or similar artwork
* Repair, replacement or installation of awnings, windows, exterior lighting and doors
* Repairs or reconstruction of entryways, including removal of barriers for those with disabilities (ADA entrance ways)
* Repair, replacement or installation of exterior masonry or siding materials
* Removal of signs
* New business sign
* Work on cornices, gutters and downspouts Asbestos/hazardous material abatement
* Add/improve ADA accessibility (i.e. improvements to floorspace, ADA rooms with roll-in showers, ADA fixtures, etc.)
* Attractive fencing to reduce traffic noise/visuals for outdoor dining areas located along Highway 101
* Beautification elements, such as planters, benches or other streetscaping

**Ineligible Projects**

* Refinancing of existing debt
* Interior improvements
* Roofs - exception: roof area that extends over entryway awnings
* Structural foundations
* Financing of inventory
* Financing of building acquisition
* Working capital
* Landscaping