



Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant (BIRG) Instructions

Department of Planning and Community Revitalization
112 Goldsboro Street E, Wilson, NC 27893



Purpose: The purpose of the Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant Incentive Program is to provide business and commercial property owners with an economic incentive to improve properties located within the Municipal Service District. The program encourages active property ownership to achieve business viability, healthy commerce, and pedestrian activity in Historic Downtown Wilson.

Eligibility: Any owner or tenant of a building located within the Municipal Service District is eligible. Please see included map for district boundaries. Owners and tenants may request BIRG grants separately; however, only one grant may be awarded per property and per project. Any tenant applying for a grant must have the owner's written permission.

Funds Available: Wilson Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC), the administrator of the Municipal Service District Tax Revenue, allocates a portion of the tax revenue to make an incentive pool possible for both the Façade Grant Incentive Program and the Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant Incentive Program.

Mandatory Pre-Application meeting: There will be one funding round for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. To be eligible for review by the WDDC Design Committee and Board, the applicant must participate in a pre-application meeting with City staff by March 28, 2023.

Pre-Application Meeting Instructions: To schedule a pre-application meeting, email cwhite@wilsonnc.org with the subject line; Pre-Application Meeting Request.

Application Deadlines: Applications must be received by 5pm on **April 11, 2025**.

Funding Determinations: The WDDC Board of Directors will make funding decisions at their June board meeting.

Guidelines:

1. Projects will be awarded to those that meet the approval of the WDDC Board of Directors.
2. Proposed projects must meet all code requirements of the City of Wilson and the State of North Carolina.
3. Funds are for comprehensive building improvements and are not to be used for general and/or deferred maintenance.
4. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are used as the standard for all proposed building improvements. Standards are attached for reference.
5. Any project related to building improvements is eligible to apply, but priority will be given to projects that improve the structural integrity of the building. Desired improvements include structural repairs, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and energy efficiency upgrades.
6. The WDDC will not be a party in negotiations between the applicant and/or contractor employed by the applicant. The applicant agrees to hold the WDDC harmless of any defects in workmanship, liability, damages, or other costs relative to the project.

Criteria:

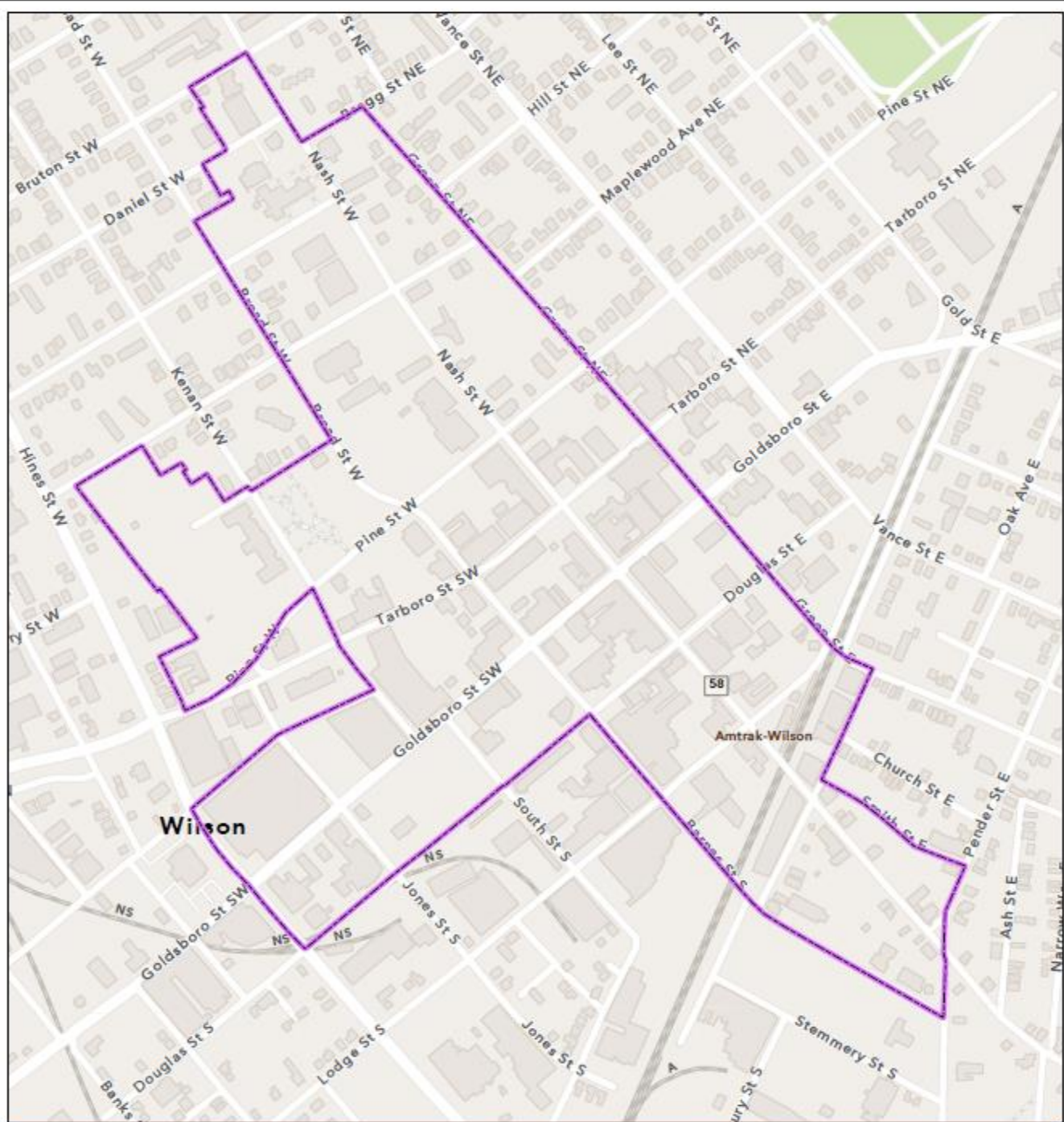
1. These grants are intended to encourage high-quality, lasting building improvements, which respect the unique historic character of the building and its surrounding historic resources.
2. This is a matching grant not to exceed 50% of the approved project cost. Grants are awarded up to \$10,000. Award amounts will reflect the quality and positive impact of the project and are based on WDDC funding availability.
3. Only one Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant will be awarded per applicant, per building.

4. Grants are not available for general or deferred maintenance.
5. An overall design improvement plan is strongly recommended for greater consideration of grant awards.
6. The WDDC Board of Directors must approve the application. Failure to comply with approved plans will result in loss of grant funding.
7. All work must be completed in a good workmanship manner. The applicant will not be eligible for grant funds unless the work is completed by a competent professional.
8. All work must be started within 45 days of the signed notification of the grant award and must be completed within six months of the start date.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: 36 CFR 67


The following Standards for Rehabilitation are the criteria used to determine if a rehabilitation project qualifies as a certified rehabilitation. The intent of the Standards is to assist the long-term preservation of a property's significance through the preservation of historic materials and features. The Standards pertain to historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy and encompass the exterior and the interior of historic buildings. The Standards also encompass related landscape features and the building's site and environment, as well as attached, adjacent, or related new construction. The following standards are to be applied to specific rehabilitation projects in a reasonable manner, taking into consideration economic and technical feasibility.

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.
11. A complete outline of these standards, describing how to appropriately preserve historic properties in working with masonry, wood, metals, roofs, entrances/porches, storefronts, structural systems,
12. spaces/features/finishes, mechanical systems, site, setting, energy, new additions, accessibility, and healthy/safety, can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/taxdocs/36cfr67.pdf>



New Downtown MSD





 Municipal Service District

Date: 6/29/2021

Prepared by:
 City of Wilson GIS Services,
 a division of Wilson Planning
 and Development Services.

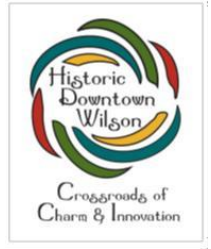
Map Disclaimer:
 This map is for informational
 purposes only. The map is NOT
 of land survey quality and is
 NOT suitable for such use.
 The City of Wilson assumes no liability
 arising from the use of the map.



Building Improvement Reimbursement Grant (BIRG) Application

Planning & Community Revitalization Department
112 Goldsboro Street E, Wilson, NC 27893
Contact : 252.399.2361 cwhite@wilsonnc.org



**Please complete this application in BLACK or BLUE ink only. PDF Autofill accepted.
*Illegible/incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.***

Property Address: _____

Property Owner: _____

Applicant: _____

If the applicant is not the owner, a signed agreement authorizing the work must be attached as part of the application.

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Current Occupancy of Building: _____

Proposed Occupancy of Building: _____

Summary of Proposed Building Improvements:

Total Project Improvement Cost \$ _____

Total Entire Building Renovation Cost \$ _____

Total Committed Property Owner Contribution \$ _____

Total Committed Business Owner/Tenant Contribution \$ _____

Total Square Footage Fit for Occupancy Post-Renovation \$ _____

Grant Amount Requested \$ _____

[Note: Request amount limited to 50% of total Project Improvement Cost. Request may not exceed \$10,000.]

Required Attachments

Please check mark next to each item, as required, to show it has been included in application packet.

- _____ Current color photographs of current building condition/project condition.
- _____ Business Plan (for new businesses/applicants)
- _____ Architectural design drawings. Must be to scale and include annotations of all proposed improvements.
- _____ Itemized contractor estimates. [Costs of labor and materials must be itemized separately.]
- _____ Written permission from the property owner authorizing work, if applicable.
- _____ Signed lease agreement, if applicable.

Estimated Construction Start Date: _____ [All work must be completed six months from this date.]

Please initial next to each item.

- _____ I understand that I must meet with City of Wilson staff about the proposed project prior to submitting an application.
- _____ I understand that the grant funds must be used for the project as described in this application and that any changes to the project must be submitted in writing and approved by City of Wilson staff.
- _____ I understand that grant payments are contingent upon completing the project as outlined and providing adequate proof of expenditure of funds and copies of all required building permits.
- _____ I understand that the proposed project must pass all required Construction Standards inspections and/or receive a Certificate of Occupancy (if applicable) prior to request for reimbursement.
- _____ I understand that upon completion of the project staff will inspect the work for compliance.
- _____ I understand that payments will be mailed to the applicant and address as listed on this application.
- _____ I understand that all work must be completed within six [6] months from date of signed agreement and any extensions must be requested in writing prior to the end of those six [6] months.
- _____ I understand that no grant payment will exceed \$10,000.00 and the applicant is not eligible for payment until the project has met all terms of the grant agreement.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

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