

MED Downtown Catalyst Funding Grant

In June 2020, the City of Midlothian Downtown Plan (Downtown Plan) was formalized and created a vision to increase activity downtown. Midlothian Economic Development (MED) is a Type A non-profit economic development corporation that receives sales tax proceeds that can be used to promote economic development. The following is a program directs funding to catalyst projects identified in the Downtown Plan. The funding for this program will be allocated annually; unused funds will be rolled over to subsequent years until used or reallocated.

What are Catalyst Projects?

The Downtown Plan identifies seven projects that, if implemented, will help change downtown and encourage further development and investment. Through the implementation of these projects a stronger identity will be created, more people will be attracted to the area, and downtown will have greater connectivity to Midlothian and will result in a vibrant downtown with opportunities for employment and community interaction. The catalyst projects require public and private involvement and include: (a) A new town square, (b) refining 8th street from Main Street to Avenue D, (c) Avenue F as a new “green street” spine, (d) Main Street as an asset, (e) adaptive reuse to activate 7th street, (f) carry back alley plaza northward, and (g) activate rail yard. Specific details on the catalyst projects can be found in the Downtown Plan.

Funding Opportunity & Qualifications

Through the MED Downtown Catalyst Funding Grant (Catalyst Grant) funds are available for infrastructure improvements associated with the downtown catalyst projects. Catalyst Grants are available to property owners, developers, or the City of Midlothian (City). Catalyst Grants will be awarded to private entities through a Performance Agreement and to the City through a funding agreement. Catalyst Grants will be paid upon completion of the projects. Catalyst Grants will be awarded for projects that (a) aligns with one of the seven catalyst projects outlined in the Downtown Plan, and (b) promote or develop new or expanded businesses enterprises downtown. Each Catalyst Grant is determined on a case-by-case basis and are limited to the amount of funds that have been allocated for the program. All agreements must be approved in accordance with Section 501.073 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Application Procedure

Interested parties should submit a concept plan and financial information about their project to MED staff. The information must align with the Funding Opportunity Qualifications. The information will be evaluated by MED staff and presented to the MED Board of Directors and City Council in closed session. Grants awarded to private entities will be awarded through a Performance Agreement that will be considered in open session by the MED and City Council. Grants awarded to private entities will be formalized through a funding agreement and approved by the MED Board of Directors and City Council in accordance with Sections 501.073 and 501.158 of the Texas Local Government Code. For assistance, please contact MED staff at (972) 723-3800.