



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Brian LaVaque, Chairperson
Trustee Jessie Hammersmith, Co-Chairperson
Economic and Community Development Committee

FROM: Joanna Wu
Economic Development Specialist/Senior Planner

DATE: July 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Informational Only – Business Grant Program Handout

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Committee about the Business Grant Program informational handouts.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Downtown Grant Program Boundary was expanded in Fall 2025 to include properties along South Main Street. This allowed properties in the boundary area to apply for the following grants:

1. Renovation & Improvement Grant Program
2. Retail Business Grant Program
3. Restaurant Forgivable Loan Program
4. Business Relocation Grant Program
5. Art Grant Program

The Economic Development Division created an informational handout with details about the most utilized grant programs. Staff walked through the new boundary areas to encourage businesses to apply. These handouts are also displayed in the lobby of Village Hall and the Economic Development webpage.

<https://www.villageoflombard.org/684/Grant-Information>

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

No action is requested.

BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAMS



Scan to learn more
about the Business
Grant Programs.

IMPROVEMENT & RENOVATION (FACADE) GRANT

This program seeks to increase the economic visibility of the Downtown area by improving the aesthetics of the buildings, signage, and the parking configuration.

GRANT AMOUNT: Up to \$50,000, with a 50% owner match (ie. If the total project cost is \$100,000, the Village may award up to \$50,000.)

EXAMPLES: facade improvement, signage, lighting, graphics, windows, doors, window displays, awnings, landscaping, parking improvements.



AWARDEE: NachoRita (14 W St Charles Rd) received a grant for new paint, repairing stonework, signage, and a commercial door.

RETAIL BUSINESS GRANT

The purpose of this grant is to increase the economic viability of the Downtown area by attracting targeted retail businesses and assisting existing businesses. Priority will be given to businesses that best complement the existing retail mix and with projected tangible benefits.

GRANT AMOUNT: Up to \$20,000, with a 50% owner match (ie. If the total project cost is \$40,000, the Village may award up to \$20,000.)

EXAMPLE: retail space build out, life safety (sprinkler, electrical, HVAC, etc.) and ADA (ramps and lifts) code requirements.



AWARDEE: Grove Tavern (2-8 W St Charles Rd) received a grant for the full build out of this new restaurant. The property at 8 W St Charles Rd was previously a vacant lot.

RESTAURANT FORGIVABLE LOAN

The purpose of this program is to increase the economic viability of the Downtown area by encouraging more restaurants. The program offers a forgivable loan for up to 1/3 of the costs associated with the renovation of the storefront or office space for use as a sit-down restaurant.

GRANT AMOUNT: \$100,000, forgivable loan up to 1/3 of associated costs (ie. If the total project cost is \$300,000, the Village may award up to \$100,000.)

EXAMPLE: code requirement improvements; life safety improvements; repair work to floors, walls, and ceilings; upgrading mechanical systems; demolition; space reconfiguration, installation cost of permanent fixtures; finish work, space or floor plans.



AWARDEE: Kyo Ramen & Poke Bowl (108 W St Charles Rd) received a grant for renovation of the plumbing, HVAC, and electrical.



DOWNTOWN GRANT PROGRAM (DGP) BOUNDARY

