



Community and Economic Development Dept.

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CITY OF CORTEZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2024

CITY OF CORTEZ ANNOUNCES BUSINESS BEAUTIFICATION MINI GRANT

Cortez-based businesses and nonprofits can apply for up to \$1,500 in matching funds.

In order to assist small businesses in creating a positive commercial environment, the City of Cortez is accepting applications for its **Cortez Business Beautification Mini Grant** program. The City may provide a matching grant of up to \$1,500 for the purchase of materials utilized in the enhancement of a business's existing façade or primary public entrance.

Eligible Projects Include:

- Replacement or upgrading exterior deteriorated materials
- New awnings, resurfacing, stucco, molding repair, signs, new doors or windows
- Painting of building façades
- Up to \$300 of city match can be used for: purchasing and placement of flowers, potted bushes, other vegetation, window cleaning, and temporary window painting

Qualifications and Criteria:

- Cortez businesses and nonprofits must be in good standing with the state and city, located within Cortez city limits, and have a current public-facing façade. Home based businesses are ineligible.
- Applicant must obtain project approval prior to purchasing materials or hiring contractors, and will be reimbursed upon submittal of receipts and photos of improvements.
- Approved improvements apply to exteriors only.
- The maximum grant reimbursement consideration shall be \$1,500 total. Up to \$300 of city match can be used for flowers, potted bushes, vegetation, window cleaning, and temporary window painting.
- The program begins May 22nd and closes October 1st.
- Beautification projects must be compliant with all city codes and regulations.
- All materials and vegetation must be purchased from Montezuma County businesses. Contractors must be licensed. Montezuma County contractors preferred, unless unavailable in County.
- Cannot be combined with other grants provided or managed by the City.
- Funds are limited. Qualifying requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis, while funding lasts.
- Businesses may turn in an application at City Hall, or on the city website at tinyurl.com/BeautificationGrant

Match Examples:

Example 1: **Business 'A' projected amount: \$3,000; Business pays \$1,500, City pays \$1,500.**

Example 2: **Business 'B' project amount: \$5,000; Business pays \$3,500, City pays \$1,500**

How to Apply:

Step 1: Contact vendor(s) preferably located in Montezuma County to obtain a quote. If purchasing materials, provide an estimated project cost.

Step 2: Submit the Beautification Grant application to City Hall or online at tinyurl.com/BeautificationGrant.

Step 3: Once you receive an email with a grant-match award letter you are ready to begin your project.

Step 4: Send copies of receipts, paid invoices, and project completion photos to BeautificationGrant@cortezco.gov. A reimbursement check will be mailed upon review.

Questions? Email: BeautificationGrant@cortezco.gov | **Phone:** (970) 900-7073

With special thanks to our sponsor: Cortez Retail Enhancement Association

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