



SMALL BUSINESS GRANT APPLICATION

Watseka Community Renewal (WCR) – \$1,000 Local Business Grant

Watseka Community Renewal (501c3) is pleased to announce five grants of \$1,000 each for eligible Watseka businesses. Examples of how these funds may be used include:

Interior maintenance or renovations

Beautification, marketing, or advertising

Signage (in accordance with Watseka Ordinance #2715, 8-27-2024)

Purchase of equipment or display units necessary for your business premises

Funds may not be used for utilities, rent, or inventory.

Award disbursement: 50% upfront and 50% upon verified project completion.

Project Timeline: Must be completed within 60 days of receiving the initial award payment.

At this time, funding is limited to small businesses operating from a commercial storefront location. Home-based and cottage businesses are not eligible during this funding cycle.

Application deadline: April 1st, 2026

Grants will be awarded at the beginning of May, 2026

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

GRANT NAME: WCR SMALL BUSINESS GRANT 1_2026

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Business Name: _____

Applicant Name(s): _____

Business Address: _____

Email / Phone: _____

Website / Social Media: _____

I. BUSINESS OVERVIEW

Please tell us about your business, including:

How long you have been open or projected opening date:

Do you have a current business license?

Business Location Ownership:

☐ Owned ☐ Leased ☐ Other: _____

Services provided or items sold: _____

What is your marketing strategy: _____

Define your customer base: _____

Challenges your business faces going forward:

II. STATEMENT OF NEED

Describe the problem, opportunity, or need your business currently faces. What would you like to accomplish with this grant?

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe your proposed project in detail. Include tasks, materials, services, and any components required to complete the project.

IV. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

What is the anticipated outcome of your project? Be specific about measurable improvements or benefits.

V. COST & BUDGET

Provide a simple, itemized budget including estimated costs and how the grant funds will be allocated. Include service invoice(s) and pricing for project materials (links if applicable). **Project must be completed within 60 days of award receipt.**

Item Description _____
Price and Quantity: _____

Item Description _____
Price and Quantity: _____

Item Description _____
Price and Quantity: _____

Item Description _____
Price and Quantity: _____

TOTAL: _____

Grant Overview:

Watseka Community Renewal is offering **five (5) small business grants in the amount of \$1,000.00 each**. This program is open to **existing or proposed businesses located in Watseka** that hold, or will obtain prior to award, a **valid business license**.

Grant funds may be used for eligible project expenses, including but not limited to **interior maintenance or renovations, beautification efforts, the purchase of equipment or display units necessary for business operations, marketing and advertising initiatives, and signage in compliance with Watseka Ordinance #2715**.

Grant funds may not be used for rent, utilities, or inventory purchases.

Grant awards will be disbursed in two installments: **50% of the awarded funds will be provided upon approval**, with the remaining **50% disbursed upon completion and verification of the approved project**.

Grant Eligibility and Restrictions Disclaimer:

To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must own or propose a business physically located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Watseka. The applicant must hold, or obtain prior to the disbursement of funds, a valid City of Watseka business license.

Grant funding is strictly limited to small businesses operating from a commercial storefront location. Home-based businesses, cottage industries, and non-storefront operations are not eligible for consideration during this funding cycle.

Grant funds may not be used for rent, utilities, or inventory, and may not be transferred, reassigned, or applied to another business or entity. All funds must be used solely for the approved project as outlined in the application.

This grant program is administered by the Watseka Community Renewal 501(c)(3) and is not affiliated with, funded by, or administered in partnership with the City of Watseka or any other grant program.

Reporting and Transparency Requirement:

All grant recipients are required to use awarded funds strictly as described in their approved application. Recipients must provide appropriate documentation to verify the use of funds, which may include invoices, receipts, statements, contracts, or other proof of expenditure as requested. Failure to provide adequate documentation or to comply with approved use guidelines may result in forfeiture of remaining funds or disqualification from future funding opportunities.