



South Lamar Chamber of Commerce

2026 Business Members Grant

Program Guidelines

Commercial building owners & tenants are encouraged to apply for the South Lamar Chamber's Business Members Grant. To encourage economic vitality of our downtown areas and improve the aesthetic character of commercial properties in the South Lamar community. One applicant will be awarded this grant with the intention of making this an annual grant available to business members of the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce. One applicant will be awarded a grant up to \$5,000.00 that must be matched 1:1 by funds obtained by the recipient. **The deadline to apply is August 31, 2026.**

- A. **Program Description:** The purpose of this grant is to
- Revitalize, rehabilitate, and/or restore commercial buildings in downtown areas
 - Encourage new investment and developments within the South Lamar community
 - Eligible improvements/projects finished accordingly may include:
 - ◆ Signage and awnings
 - ◆ Restoration of doors, windows, etc.
 - ◆ Interior Renovations
 - ◆ Exterior paint
 - ◆ Improving ADA access outside your building
 - ◆ Interior or exterior lighting

- ◆ Parking lot improvements
- ◆ Storefront façade improvements
- Ineligible work includes:
 - ◆ Normal, routine maintenance
 - ◆ Purchasing of inventory
 - ◆ Payroll
 - ◆ Temporary or seasonal improvements
 - ◆ Rent/Utilities

B. Who may apply?

- Property Owners
- Tenants (must have owner's consent before applying)
- Must be a member of the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce.

C. Application/Approval Process: Each application will be reviewed for completeness by the executive officers of the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce. Every application will receive email updates periodically from the Chamber, once your application is reviewed for completeness, and submitted to an independent outside panel for judging. One applicant will be awarded the grant for the 2026 cycle. For more information, you can email us at southlamarchamber@gmail.com, visit our website southlamarchamber.org, or call 662-361-1060.

D. Terms:

- Grant will be paid upon completion and review of work.
- Reimbursement shall be made only on improvement(s) stated in your application.
- Grant project must begin within 60 days of the signed agreement for winning the grant. Grant project must be completed within 6 months of project start date.

E. Approval of Work: The South Lamar Chamber of Commerce will have sole authority to determine eligibility of proposed work and confirmation of completed work.

F. Construction Contract: All construction contracts related to this grant are solely between the participant and the contractor. The South Lamar Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, and Outside Panel take no responsibility nor assume any liability related to any construction contracts of work performed through this grant. In addition, business tenants must have written authority of the property owner prior to the application and owner must sign the Owner's

Consent form and attached to the application. Owner's Consent Form is located on the last page of this packet.

G. **Selection Method:** All applicant's submissions will be drawn from an outside panelist judging this competition. The Panel will be members of other Chamber of Commerce, community organizations, etc. that have no ties to any businesses, owners, or parties in the South Lamar Community. Our Panelists will be announced over the summer on the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page and website (southlamarchamber.org). Any applicant found reaching out to a panelist or trying to influence results will have their application removed from the review process.

H. **Disbursement of Funds:** Prior to disbursement of funds, all completed work will be reviewed by South Lamar Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board, or designated representatives solely for the approval of the applicant's compliance with the agreement. Once project is completed, the application will receive reimbursement up to \$5,000.00 (matched 1:1 by the applicant). The South Lamar Chamber of Commerce cannot reimburse contractors directly.

The South Lamar Chamber of Commerce, executive board, outside panelists, and this program does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status.



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Program Application

DEADLINE: the deadline to submit your application is August 31, 2026. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Please submit a photo of your business and any photos/drawings along with your application that will assist the South Lamar Chamber and outside panelists in understanding the work that will be done.

You may email your completed application and other required documents to southlamarchamber@gmail.com, mail them in to South Lamar Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 205, Millport, AL 35576, or drop them off at Millport Public Library, West Alabama Bank in Millport, or Alabama Credit Union in Kennedy, AL.

Award recipient will be notified October 1, 2026.

Project must be completed by June 1, 2027. Once project is completed, you must provide before & after photos, along with copies of receipts/proof of expenditures by May 25th, 2027.

Please provide an overview of your proposed improvement project, including:

- Brief description of your project
- Purpose of the project
- Amount of funding requested
- Overview of how the funds will be spent
- Timeline of project
- Who will be responsible for the work to complete the project, whether yourself or another individual or a company/contractor

Tell us about your business, including:

- The name of your business
- The nature of your business
- How long you have been in business
- How your business began (or the story of bringing your business to life)
- How this project will benefit your business

All business owners must agree on project and sign application. If you do not own the property/building to be improved, please have owner/s complete the consent form and return with your application. If you are the owner, your signature below will suffice.

I understand that I will be responsible for spending the funds to complete my project and that the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce will reimburse me once the project is complete and I have submitted the required documentation. Unless approved by the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce to do so, I understand if I deviate from the approved project, I may not receive the funds, as awarded.

Applicant

Date

Applicant

Date

For more information, contact Christina Higginbotham at 662-361-1060 or southlamarchamber@gmail.com.



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Owner Consent Form

The undersigned owner of the building/property located at _____
_____ (address) certifies that _____
_____ (applicant) operates a business at the above location.

The undersigned owner agrees to permit the application and his/her contracts/agents to implement improvements listed on the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce 2026 Business Members Grant application.

The undersigned owner(s) hereby waives any claims against the South Lamar Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board, outside panelist, or anyone associated with the distribution of the Business Members Grant funding arising out of the use of said grant funds for the purpose set forth in the application. The undersigned owner agrees to hold those listed about harmless for any changes, damages, claims, or liens arising out of the Applicant's participation in the Business Members Grant program.

Witness my hand and seal this the _____ day of _____ 20____.

OWNER

Signature

Name/Title/Phone

OWNER

Signature

Name/Title/Phone