



ARPA Funded Business Assistance Programs

A recommendation for partnering with businesses to build a stronger Rock Island.



Assistance to Businesses was identified as one of the top five priorities for ARPA funding among public survey respondents.

Rock Island City Council allocated:

\$500,000 for Façade Improvement Program

\$750,000 for Assistance to Businesses





This proposal allows these programs to complement a larger strategy to address the needs of our community.

These programs should be accessible to all business and property owners, sustainable, and part of an effort to create long-term stability for the City of Rock Island's business community.

Community Needs

Remedy Functional Obsolescence

Many of the existing commercial properties in Rock Island are in need of functional updates to meet the needs of modern business operations.

Long-term vacant properties

There are properties that could be used for new or expanding businesses that have been long vacant and are in need of updates.

Code Compliance & Life Safety

Some commercial properties are facing code compliance or life safety improvement costs due to change of use or expansion.

Offset Locational Disadvantage

A business looking to expand may want to stay in Rock Island, but face additional costs if they stay that would not be encountered elsewhere.

Opportunity

As our country faces a population of business owners nearing retirement we need to be able to assist entrepreneurs in taking over existing businesses and making necessary improvements to keep the business competitive into the future.

The City's Role in Economic Development

The City's role in Economic Development is to help facilitate collaboration between the public and private sectors, to make connections between business and expert partners, and to seek solutions to fill gaps in knowledge, skill, and financing to make business growth possible.



General Policies & Procedures

Consistent across all Rock Island economic development programs.

The project must be located within the corporate boundaries of the City of Rock Island, Illinois.

The applicant must be or represent an organization that provides employment opportunities to Rock Island citizens.

The project must be in compliance with the Regional Economic Development Cooperation Agreement signed by the municipalities within the Quad Cities Bi-State Region.

The applicant must agree to maintain operations in Rock Island for a time specified in the development agreement or any incentives will be subject to a claw back provision.

The applicant must submit an application for assistance through the City of Rock Island's Economic Development Portal. - rockislandil.civicserve.com.



Commercial Property Enhancement Program (PEP)





Commercial Property Enhancement Program Goal

The goal of the Commercial Property Enhancement Program is to improve the functionality of and increase property value of commercial structures within the City of Rock Island.

The program is designed to encourage new and expanding businesses, foster revitalization of commercial corridors, and encourage private investment in commercial structures.

Commercial Property Enhancement Program (PEP)



- **Matching Grant**
- **Up to 50% of eligible expenses**
- **Up to \$20,000 match per project**

Eligible Activities:

- Rehabilitation of existing business structures - interior or exterior
- Correction of conditions of deterioration affecting quality of structures
- Projects designed to address code violations
- Projects designed to achieve code compliance of intended property use
- Preservation of significant historical elements of buildings
- Commercial upgrades that address issues that result from long vacant properties



**This program is an
expanded version
of the Façade
Improvement
Program.**



Growing Rock Island Together (GRIT)





Growing Rock Island Together Goal

The goal of the GRIT program is to provide low interest gap financing in conjunction with a forgivable loan for projects to help incentivize business expansion, attraction, and entrepreneurial business creation.

Growing Rock Island Together (GRIT)



- **50% low-interest loan, 50% forgivable loan**
- **Up to 30% of total project cost**
- **Up to \$50,000 per project**

Eligible Activities:

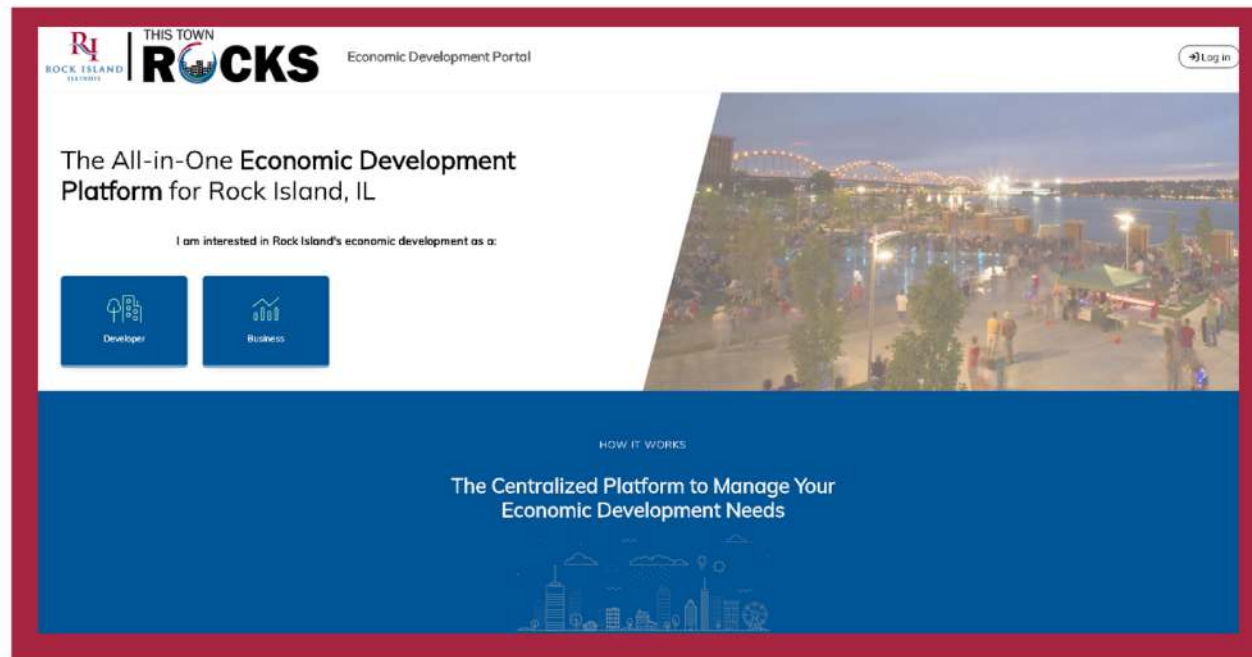
- Building or land purchase
- Rehabilitation of or construction of a commercial property
- Modernization or "re-tooling" of business operations
- Infrastructure related to employment
- Clearance, demolition, and removal of buildings to develop sites
- Site remediation and analysis
- Business education and technical assistance



The low-interest portion of the loan will allow the fund to sustain itself for future use.



Portal and Application



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Search by Address



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ROCKS

Economic Development Portal

Log in

Rock Island Business Economic Development Platform

1808

1809 2 AVE, ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

View by

All

Incentive (4)



Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Incentive Program
The City of Rock Island has established the use of tax increment financing (TIF) as a strategic tool in its economic development program to foster redevelopment in areas of the community where needed.



Commercial Property Enhancement Program
The goal of the Commercial Property Enhancement Program is to improve the functionality and increase property value of commercial properties within the City of Rock Island. The program is intended to engage and encourage property owners and businesses to renovate and rehabilitate the physical appearance and value of their properties within the City of Rock Island.



Storefront Improvement Program
The Storefront Improvement Program is designed to assist building and business owners in their efforts to make visible exterior improvements to their commercial storefront spaces.

Incentive Programs (4)
Programs with a financial incentive to the developer, business, or resident.

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Economic Development Portal

Log in

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[Learn More & Apply](#)



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Register a Business



THIS TOWN

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Economic Development Portal

Log In

Register Your Business

Register your business here, and keep informed about new programs as they become active.

- ✓ Be the first to know when new incentive and non-incentive programs are available!
- ✓ Keep you up to date on community news!
- ✓ Stay informed on updates and changes to our Economic Development programs!
- ✓ Be informed when new funding is available!

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Business Name *

Business Address *

Business City *

Business State *

Select...

Business Industry *

Select...

Formation Date *

Business Phone Number *

+1 () -

Are you also an interested party for any of the following?

TIF

Grant

☒ Yes, I'd like to receive email communications about business growth opportunities and incentives in Rock Island and agree to Rock Island's Privacy Policy!

Register

rockislandil.civicserve.com



Application Review

Each completed application will be reviewed against a scoring matrix to determine how it aligns with the City's plans and priorities. Projects will then be brought to the Administrative Review Team for a second review.

Staff will prepare a scoring review sheet for the Administrative Team review.

Development Agreement

Each award made from ARPA funding will be subject to a development agreement between the applicant and the City.

Performance measures and reporting requirements will be included.





Outcomes

- Improved building stock for current and future businesses in Rock Island.
- Expanded job opportunities for Rock Islanders.



Next Steps

Our strategy is divided into four achievable goals:



1

- Return to City Council with full policies and procedures for each program.
- Propose a resolution authorizing administrative approval of ARPA funded programs.

2

- Activate all ARPA funded program applications in the CivicServe platform.
- Send email to all interested parties to notify them of program activation.
- Roll out marketing campaign for the debut of the new programs.

3

Coordinate with Communication Engagement Manager, to issue press release, social media postings, and schedule media interviews.

4

Begin offering technical assistance to business owners as they navigate the new programs.

Questions?

