



Economic Advisory Council Facade Assistance Program

Facade Assistance Program (FAP) offers a level of assistance for non-retail and retail businesses to improve their visual aesthetics, landscaping and signage.

FAP is a matching grant program sponsored by the City of Oak Forest with the basic goal of making Oak Forest businesses look better and improve the overall appearance of our commercial corridors. Major program requirements for a business applying for FAP assistance include:

- ✿ Property ownership and/or a property owner's written approval allowing the lessee to apply for the grant;
- ✿ Full compliance with all Oak Forest codes and regulations;
- ✿ Presentation of the project relating to aesthetics, landscaping and signage improvements;

How Much Assistance is Available through FAP?

A landlord or lessee may apply for matching funding. The applicant and landlord would be expected to each cover a minimum of 2/3 of the costs associated with renovation, while the City of Oak Forest would cover the remaining cost up to the maximum amount permitted under FAP guidelines (currently \$10,000). Also, a signed agreement between the City and the applicant must be completed for City Council to approve the grant.

What Repairs/Renovations are Covered Under FAP?

Grant funds are limited in terms of what is or isn't covered. Grant funds cannot be used for trade fixtures or equipment specific to the business, but they can be used to cover a number of hard costs associated with a typical renovation of commercial signage – and even some soft costs traditionally not covered under similar programs in other communities. Eligible costs include:

- ✿ Upgrades/retrofitting existing signage, including electrical systems
- ✿ Installation of façade materials and landscaping
- ✿ Soft costs such as architectural/engineering costs, landscaping plans and permit fees

For Further Information
Contact the City of Oak Forest, Community Development Department
(708) 687-4050