TID Building Improvement Program

Introduction:

The City of Berlin created a downtown TID (#15) in October of 2008. The purpose of creating a Blight Elimination Tax Increment Finance District was to promote redevelopment and investment from local property owners, both within and outside of the district. The creation of the TID allowed the City to provide needed infrastructure, as well as funding, to local stakeholders through incentives and grants, and to encourage property owners and business owners to proactively participate in revitalization.

The following guidelines have been created and adopted by the City of Berlin to help direct and evaluate requests for financial assistance through TID # 15 for building structural improvements.

Purpose:

➢ Promote Blight Elimination
➢ Promote Redevelopment of area
➢ Prevent Further Deterioration

Building Improvement Program:

Property owners in conjunction with businesses within the Downtown TID #15 District of the City of Berlin are eligible for up to $15,000 in matching grant funds for improvements to the interior of their building. As a matching funds program, the City of Berlin TID Program will reimburse the property owner for up to 50% of the expense to a maximum grant amount of $15,000 on a case-by-case basis. All grants will be rewarded to eligible applicants while funds are available. Applicants are eligible for only one grant award per property in a 24-month period, unless otherwise approved by the City of Berlin Common Council. For larger projects demonstrating a significant positive impact on the downtown, the Common Council may approve funding awards which exceed the stated program cap.

Eligible/Ineligible Applicants:

The Building Improvement Program is available to any property owner lying within TID #15 boundaries. The program is also available to business tenants of such buildings given the property owner's written consent. Properties whose primary use is residential or are listed as tax-exempt are not eligible.

Program Guidelines:

No application will be reviewed or presented to the Common Council for consideration on behalf of an applicant if the property is delinquent with their City of Berlin Property Taxes or Berlin Utility Bills on any property located within the City.

All improvements must meet the requirements of the Zoning code identified in the City of Berlin Municipal Code. All proper Building permits must be obtained.

Each applicant should demonstrate sufficient need for financial assistance. The burden is on the requesting party to prove that the proposed project would not be feasible without TID funds assistance.

Eligible Activities:

Eligible activities include interior and exterior improvements including roof, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, insulation, structural and ADA related improvements. Projects which do not directly improve the longevity of the building, or equipment expenses are not eligible activities.

Process:

Applicants should submit the following documentation if interested in participating in the façade improvement program:
1. Complete Building Improvement Program Application
2. Complete Release of Information
3. Submit contractor estimates for proposed project

After application materials are received, City Staff will review applications. Complete applications will be presented to Common Council for approval.

Notification of approval/denial will be provided to the applicant by City Staff within ten (10) days following the Council meeting. Note that the project must be approved prior to any of the work taking place. Failure to have prior approval may result in a denial of the funding request for the qualifying project. All projects must be underway within 120 days of program funding approval.

Appropriate documentation, such as invoices, must be submitted to the City Clerk for the fund reimbursement upon completion of the project. All reimbursable expenses must be within 180 days of the program approval. If the projects are not completed in accordance with the requirements and time schedule identified, then the applicant must reappear to request approval for an extension.