

Business Accessibility/Adaptability Program Guidelines

Grant Details

50% of total project cost (excluding taxes) up to \$3,000. If Spruce the Bruce grant program is open, apply there first and your application will be automatically enrolled in our program.

Program Intent

The Business Accessibility Adaptability grant provides funding for business and property owners to upgrade or renovate the exterior or interior of their commercial building to remove or reduce barriers for people with disabilities and enhance accessibility.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Automatic doors (exterior or interior)
- Accessible dressing rooms
- Accessible washrooms
- Wheelchair ramps
- Flat entrance (in place of stairs)
- Others approved by Township of Huron-Kinloss such permanent renovations or upgrades that improve the accessibility of the exterior or interior of the commercial building

Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Temporary or 'removable' project materials or elements

Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant must be a tenant or the property owner of the building. A letter of support from the property owner is required if the applicant is the tenant.
- **The building must be commercial or mixed-use and be located within the Community Improvement Project area 1-4.**
- The renovations and upgrades should be compliant with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).
- Project work must not have started (including purchasing any materials) until the application has been approved.
- Properties previously awarded grants are not eligible for additional funding under the same grant category unless:
 - The grant was provided more than five years ago; or
 - Either the tenant and/or property owner changed since the last grant was provided; or
 - The application is clearly for different physical elements of the building/property (as determined by Township staff)

Review Criteria

The Downtown Improvement Grant Committee at the Township will review applications against the following criteria:

- Date and timing of the application
- Suitability of project and relation to eligibility guidelines
- Balance of funding available and any previous applications made at the time of application
- Evidence of the applicant's ability to fulfill responsibilities related to the project

Application Process

Applicants must complete an application form in order to be given consideration for a grant. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted. If approved, funds will be allocated following completion of the project and proof of eligible expenses is received.

The terms and conditions of any grant or loan program and administrative procedures may be changed, altered, amended, or modified by the Township of Huron-Kinloss without the necessity of an amendment to the Community Improvement Plan. The Township may discontinue, suspend, or cancel any program, or decrease program funding without requiring an amendment to this Plan.

Applications to this program are available at the Township's municipal office at 21 Queen Street, Ripley or online at www.huronkinloss.com

519-395-3735

