

Revised REHAB Special Revenue Fund Guidelines

REHAB Special Revenue Fund Purpose

The purpose of the Restore Endangered Historic Adaptable Buildings (“REHAB”) Special Revenue Fund Guidelines is to establish the parameters for use of the REHAB Special Revenue Fund and to facilitate rehabilitation of historic buildings within Jacksonville (exclusive of Downtown), specifically buildings designated as landmarks or contributing structures in locally designated historic districts. The REHAB Special Revenue Fund was created to foster the repair, rehabilitation and restoration of non-residential income-producing or mixed-use historic buildings or historic buildings owned by not-for-profit corporations, located throughout Jacksonville, excluding the Downtown Area as defined in Sec. 55.105, Ordinance Code. The Chief Administrative Officer (“CAO”) or their designee shall, in coordination with the Planning and Development Department (“PDD”), process applications for REHAB Special Revenue Fund grants and the CAO or their designee shall administer grants awarded from the REHAB Special Revenue Fund.

REHAB Special Revenue Fund Limitations

1. Only projects that apply for \$100,000 or less in the aggregate are eligible for funding from the REHAB Special Revenue Fund.
2. All CAO approvals of REHAB Special Revenue Fund allocations are subject to the available unencumbered balance in the Fund at time of award, and all grants awarded by the CAO shall encumber the related balance in the REHAB Special Revenue Fund upon execution of a Rehabilitation Agreement.
3. Any work that commences after an application is submitted but prior to final grant approval may be eligible for reimbursement but is not guaranteed.

REHAB Special Revenue Fund Eligibility

All proposed buildings that apply for the REHAB Special Revenue Fund must meet the following criteria:

1. The building must be at least 50 years old; and
2. The building must be non-residential income-producing, mixed-use or owned by a not-for-profit corporation; and
3. The building must be located within Jacksonville, excluding the Downtown Area as defined in Sec. 55.105, Ordinance Code; and
4. The building must be architecturally or historically significant, as determined by HPS, in accordance with Section 307.102, Ordinance Code; and
5. The building must be:
 - a. a local landmark, designated by the City pursuant to Chapter 307, Ordinance Code; or
 - b. a contributing structure to a local historic district, designated by the City pursuant to Chapter 307, Ordinance Code; or declared a potential local landmark, as defined in Chapter 307, Ordinance Code, however, final local landmark designation must be obtained from City Council prior to final approval of the grant by the CAO or their designee.
 - c. Any grant award will expire after 12 months if landmark designation is not obtained by the property owner.
 - d. The building must be declared critically endangered by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission (the “JHPC”), who shall consider the following criteria:
 - i. Evidence of a physical threat of loss, damage, or neglect;
 - ii. If the building is currently vacant;
 - iii. The building’s susceptibility to development pressures or natural disasters;

- iv. The building's suitability for preservation or rehabilitation; and
- v. Any other criteria the JHPC considers relevant.

REHAB Special Revenue Fund Expenditures

1. Eligible expenses include up to:
 - a. 75% of eligible costs for the Restoration or Rehabilitation of the building Exterior
 - b. 75% of eligible costs for the Restoration of Historic features on the building Interior
 - c. 30% of eligible costs for the Rehabilitation of the building Interior, and
 - d. 75% of eligible costs for bringing the property up to levels as required for Code Compliance or related fire and safety requirements. Environmental remediation or abatement within the building such as asbestos removal is included as well as new code requirements.
 - e. 20% of the eligible costs for General Requirements and Overhead of the GC.
2. REHAB Special Revenue Fund grants will be awarded for work that commences within twelve (12) months from the date of grant approval and is completed within three (3) years of grant approval.
3. All General Contractors performing work to be reimbursed must be licensed and insured for the type of work being performed.
4. REHAB Special Revenue Fund grants, in the aggregate, may not exceed 50% of Total Construction Costs, defined as the negotiated construction costs with a qualified, licensed General Contractor, or associated qualified, licensed subcontractors.
5. Total Construction Costs (including but not limited to costs associated with the physical rehabilitation or restoration of the building) must be determined reasonable for the scope of the project utilizing third party verification where available and may not include soft costs (including but not limited to architectural plans, engineering fees, etc.), reserves, or developer fees.
6. All property, business, and income taxes must be current at the time of application and maintained in a current status during the approval process, the term of the Rehabilitation Agreement and through the REHAB Special Revenue Fund grant period.
7. REHAB Special Revenue Fund grants are subject to standard claw back language related to disposition of the property within five years of disbursement, or similar circumstances of conversion (100% due back if disposed within one year of receiving grant, 80% if between years one and two, 60% if between years two and three, 40% if between years three and four, and 20% if between years four and five).

REHAB Special Revenue Fund Application Process

1. Pre-Application
 - a. A pre-application meeting will be held for all proposed developments planning to utilize the REHAB Special Revenue Fund program. Attendees shall include the Applicant and related members of the proposed development team, members of the COJ PDD Historic Preservation Section staff, and the CAO or their designee, as appropriate. From this meeting, a strategy that incorporates the following steps and requirements will be formulated to include task assignments and a timeline for target dates to accomplish the application processing goals.
2. Application and Processing

Application and processing of historic designation, Certificate of Appropriateness approval and REHAB Special Revenue Fund grant approval through the PDD and the CAO or their designee may occur simultaneously, except as provided below.

- a. Landmark Designation
 - i. Application shall be made to the PDD for Local Landmark designation unless the building is already a local landmark or has been designated as a contributing structure within a local historic district.
 - ii. PDD shall verify whether the building is already a local Landmark, a local contributing structure or is eligible for designation. PDD shall assist the applicant in Local Landmark Designation Procedures as needed and process any landmark designation application through the Historic Preservation Commission and City Council approval process.
 - iii. A staff report recommending designation and legislation approving the same must be filed prior to any grant approval by the CAO or their designee.

3. Scope of Work

- a. Application shall also be made to PDD for a Certificate of Appropriateness or other approval for the scope of work to be performed.
- b. The PDD shall review applications for work to be performed on any local landmark or contributing structure within a locally designated historic district for compliance with the United States Secretary of the Interior Standards for Restoration or Rehabilitation, and any applicable historic preservation design guidelines, and shall issue an approval, denial, or approval with conditions and comments.
- c. The application for a COA or approval of the scope of work can be submitted and reviewed simultaneously with landmark designation; however, no staff report regarding scope of work will be issued to the CAO or their designee prior to the approval of legislation for landmark status.
- d. Any work not approved through the COA review process by the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission, PDD Staff, or determined to not meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards or other design guidelines will be removed from the list of qualified eligible expenses for consideration.

4. REHAB Special Revenue Fund Grant Approval

Simultaneously, application shall be made to the CAO or their designee for funding pursuant to the REHAB Special Revenue Fund Guidelines. The CAO or their designee shall receive and analyze project information as outlined below:

- a. Rehabilitation plan to include:
 - i. Current and proposed usage of the property following completion.
 - ii. Proposed timeline of anticipated improvements and completion of work.
- b. Applications to include evidence of ownership or control of the subject property. A detailed construction budget spreadsheet with costs broken down in sufficient detail to identify the scope of the work and categorization of each line item as applicable to 1) exterior, 2) restoration of historic features on the building interior, 3) rehabilitation of the building interior, 4) general requirements and overhead of the GC, or 5) code compliance renovations as may be appropriate per the REHAB Special Revenue Fund Grant request being made.
- c. Provide evidence that all property and business taxes are current.
- d. Evidence of local Landmark or local contributing structure status for the subject property as outlined above or application for the same, to be submitted as appropriate for the request made.
- e. PDD staff recommendation as to eligibility of the approved scope of work on any local landmark or local contributing structure shall be required prior to CAO or their

designee or City Council approval of any program funding, however a contingent staff report will be accepted. The level of certainty required before presentation to the CAO or their designee or City Council will depend on the extent to which eligible costs exceed the request.

5. Following Final Application Approval

- a. Upon approval by the CAO or their designee or City Council of REHAB Special Revenue Fund funding, the CAO or their designee staff will negotiate a proposed Rehabilitation Agreement and associated grant documents.
- b. The Rehabilitation Agreement will be routed for execution.
- c. The CAO or their designee to be provided copies of periodic inspections and/or progress reports as applicable.

6. Distribution of Funding

- a. The REHAB Special Revenue Fund Grant will be funded following review and approval of the Request for Disbursement by the Applicant following completion of all work.
- b. PDD shall verify the building has been approved for local Landmark status, if the property was not designated a contributing structure to a historic district or did not already have local Landmark status at the time of application.
- c. All work on approved buildings must be inspected by the Planning and Development Department or its designee for compliance with the approved application and COA, prior to funding.
- d. COJ PDD, and CAO or their designee jointly, or other appropriate COJ Department, will verify that paid invoices submitted for reimbursement align with the construction budget as approved and confirm Developer's compliance with previously approved building permits, COA, and all PDD requirements, as applicable.
- e. All existing liens and code violations must be cleared prior to disbursement of funds.
- f. Funds will be authorized for distribution in accordance with the approved Rehabilitation Agreement including evidence of satisfaction of all liens and waiver of claims from General Contractor and subcontractors, verification that there are no delinquent property taxes or other tax obligations outstanding beyond their respective due dates, and other requirements as found in that agreement.
- g. Grants are subject to forfeiture, cancellation, or re-evaluation by the City in the event of default, sale, or transfer of the property within five years of disbursement.
- h. The property owner and/or the applicant shall provide the CAO, or their designee, annual reports that detail the status of the project for five years after funding disbursement.