Business Improvement Grant Program 2027

ABOUT THE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANT (BIG) PROGRAM

The Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce will offer matching grants for business improvements made to members in good standing of the Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce.

Members in good standing have a current membership as of 1/15/27. (you will need to re-new your 2026 membership to be eligible)

We recognize that small businesses are the economic engine in our community and we are looking to offer a grant program to help offset the cost of items to help your business succeed.

Our areas of focus include: **People, Place, Promotion and Product**.

OACC may offer matching grants to cover up to 50 percent of the total cost of the improvement project, with a maximum grant amount of $2,500.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any member in good standing of the Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce.

This includes non profit and not for profit members, store front and home based businesses.

The member must have renewed or joined by 1/15/27.

WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF FOCUS?

People – Investing inPeople
Education, Training, Courses
Examples: Quickbooks class, Leadership Training, etc.

Place – Improvement to your place of business
Exterior and Interior Improvements
Examples: paint, awnings, signage, lighting, landscape, furniture, etc.

Promotion – Aid in the marketing of your business
Specialist in promotion
Examples: Wrap vehicle, social media expert, graphic designer, etc.

Product – Upgrading the products that make your business work more efficiently
Hardware, Software, Connectivity
Examples: upgraded computer, copier, point of sale, security system, software, etc.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- Applicants looking for external improvements must own the commercial property specified on the application or be a business that leases space in the building and obtains the required authorization from the building owner as part of the application process. If it is a contributing historic property, we ask that HARB be consulted. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any permits required.

- Work, trainings, and purchases completed prior to the grant acceptance letter by the OACC are not eligible for funding. The BIG program is overseen by a review committee.

- Priority will be given for applicants using Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce members as a vendor, when applicable. A full list of all Chamber member is available on our website (OxfordPA.org).

- Grant funding can be issued to the applicant as a reimbursement or directly to the vendor.

- Submission of an application does not guarantee approval and funding of the grant project. Furthermore, the committee may award partial grants (less than 50% of the requested amount) based on the amount of applications and funding available. In this situation, the committee will contact the applicant and advise of the amount eligible to the applicant at which time the applicant may elect to remit more than 50% or reduce the size of the project to fit within the size of the grant funds available.

- The grant funding must be used by December 15, 2027 of the grant being issued.

- All applicants will receive communication whether their application has been funded or not by February 1, 2027

HOW TO APPLY

The application can be downloaded from the Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce Website (OxfordPA.org), email Christine Grove, Executive Director OACC (CGrove@OxfordPAChamber.org) or stop by the office at 1 Octoraro Alley Suite A Oxford, PA

Applicants must submit: The two-page application Description of item, service or work to be completed, including photographs if applicable. Pricing/Estimate. Please be descriptive, this will allow the committee to understand how your request will aid your business.

Mail, Deliver or Scan your application to Christine Grove, Executive Director
Mail: OACC PO Box 4 Oxford, PA 19363
Deliver: OACC 1 Octoraro Alley Suite A Oxford, PA - there is a drop off box if office is closed.
Scan: CGrove@OxfordPAChamber.org.

Deadline for BIG is 1/15/27
Grant awards will be announced by February 1, 2027