



## ***2025 Business Beautification Grant***

Cortez-based businesses and nonprofits are invited to apply for up to \$3,000 in one-to-one matching funds for exterior projects.

In order to assist small businesses in creating a positive commercial environment, the City of Cortez is accepting applications for its **Cortez Business Beautification Grant**. The City may provide a one-to-one matching grant of up to \$3,000 for the purchase of materials utilized in the enhancement of a business's existing façade or primary public entrance.

**More information and the application can be found at:** [tinyurl.com/CTZ-BizBeauty](https://tinyurl.com/CTZ-BizBeauty)

This is a grant reimbursement program. Pre-approved businesses must complete and pay for proposed projects and then submit receipts/paid invoices along with after-photos of the completed Beautification Project to the City of Cortez to receive grant payment. Projects must be completed, and receipts submitted by 5 PM on November 21, 2025 to receive reimbursement.

### **Grant Application Deadlines:**

|         | <b>Application Deadline</b> | <b>Awarded Notification/Project Start Date</b> |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Round 1 | March 1, 2025               | March 14, 2025                                 |
| Round 2 | May 1, 2025                 | May 16, 2025                                   |
| Round 3 | July 1, 2025                | July 18, 2025                                  |

*All applications due on the date listed at or before 11:59 PM.*

**Funds are limited. Qualifying requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis, while funding lasts. It is recommended to turn in grant applications as early as possible.**

**APPLICATION LINK:** <https://tinyurl.com/bizbeauty25>

### **Program Manager:**

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### **City of Cortez**

Community & Economic Development Department  
123 Roger Smith Avenue, Cortez CO 81321



### Criteria for Beautification Projects

- ☑ Must be a Cortez-based businesses or nonprofits located within the City limits.
- ☑ Grant funds can only be used on **future** projects. Cannot be used for projects already completed.
- ☑ Projects must be planned for the current calendar year (2025).
- ☑ Project must be planned for the exterior/outside of the business's public-facing façade.
- ☑ Applicant business must be in Good Standing with the State of Colorado and the City of Cortez.
- ☑ Beautification Projects must be compliant with City codes and regulations.
- ☑ All materials and vegetation for the Beautification Project must be purchased from Montezuma County businesses. Contractors must be licensed. Montezuma County contractors preferred, unless unavailable in County.

### Ineligible Use of Funds

- ☒ Funds cannot be used to reimburse business for labor hours (by employee or owner) or pay for materials/supplies purchased from the applicant business, including businesses owned by the same parent company.
- ☒ Grant funding is only available for exterior improvements of businesses and nonprofits within the City of Cortez only. Home-based businesses are ineligible.
- ☒ Businesses owned by the same parent company can only apply for one business per grant cycle.
- ☒ Improvements to the interior of the business or general operating costs/working capital are ineligible for grant funding.
- ☒ City of Cortez and other government permit fees.
- ☒ Expenses outside of the approved project.
- ☒ Grant funding cannot be combined with other grants provided by or managed by the City that goes towards the Beautification Project.

### Eligible Projects

- ☑ Replacing or upgrading exterior fixtures and materials that have deteriorated
- ☑ Replacing, improving, or adding a business sign (*\*applicants may be required to obtain a sign permit. Permit fees are not an eligible use of grant funds*)
- ☑ New awnings, resurfacing, stucco, molding repair, signs, new doors or windows
- ☑ Replacing, upgrading, or adding outside lighting to the public or primary entrance
- ☑ Paving or improving gravel and asphalt to driveways or parking lots
- ☑ Interior signs that face the main street (open/closed signs, etc.)
- ☑ Painting of building façades
- ☑ Temporary window painting (for sporting events, holidays, and other events)
- ☑ Purchasing and placement of flowers, potted bushes, other vegetation
- ☑ Purchasing outdoor decorations such as seasonal decor

\*For a list of previously funded beautification projects visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mskxej7c>