



2026 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

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 20, 2026 to receive reimbursement.

***Please note: businesses that received the maximum grant award (\$3,000) in the prior year may apply at any time, however award decisions may be postponed until Round 2.**

Grant Application Deadlines:

	Application Deadline	Awarded Notification/Project Start Date
Round 1	March 1, 2026	March 13, 2026
Round 2	May 1, 2026	May 15, 2026
Round 3	July 1, 2026	July 10, 2026
Round 4 (if funding available)	September 1, 2026	September 11, 2026

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 (2026).
- ☑ 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>