

Rural Economic Development Program

The Rural Economy & Agri-Tourism program is intended to assist with the creation of more jobs and purposeful diversification of the rural economy. This will be accomplished through the provision of financial incentives for the establishment or expansion of on-farm diversified business, rural-commercial, agri-tourism, or other commercial recreation uses in the rural area to promote growth and resiliency.

Incentive Details

Building Permit & Planning Fee Grant

100% of Building / Planning Fees, up to \$15,000

Construction Costs Matching Grant

50% of Construction Costs, up to \$15,000

Eligible Areas

Rural Area

Eligible Works

- Development or redevelopment associated with the establishment or expansion of an industrial use within an employment area that adds to the diversification of the local economy and creation of new jobs.
- Works associated with the establishment or expansion of a non-residential use
- Development or redevelopment associated with the establishment or expansion of an agri-tourism, on-farm diversified uses, rural commercial or industrial use, or commercial recreational use on a property in the rural area.
- Examples of eligible works include, but are not limited to:
 - New construction or renovation/redevelopment of a building to serve the use;
 - works associated with the enhancement, rehabilitation, restoration, and / or general improvement of one or more building facades;
 - works associated with the improvement, rehabilitation, and / or installation of on-site signage associated with a business or non-residential use on the property;
 - costs associated with the purchase and/or installation of permanent equipment and/or structures directly associated with an eligible use;
 - installation of new permanent landscape elements such as vegetation / planting beds, trees, hardscaping features (armour stone, paver paths, furniture, rock gardens, etc.), landscape islands within parking areas, and site beautification associated with the building;

Eligibility Criteria

1. Improvements to dwellings / parts of dwellings used as part of a home-based business or commercial operation are not eligible for funding under this program, unless otherwise approved by the municipality;
2. Only buildings and properties containing a bonafide agri-tourism, on-farm diversified use, rural commercial or industrial use, or commercial recreational use are eligible for funding under this program.
3. Construction costs may include capital costs for equipment, structures, and/or improvements directly associated with eligible uses;
4. Funding preference will be given to projects involving the permanent physical improvement of eligible properties and buildings in the rural area.