



Downtown Morehead City Small Business Support Grant Application

Due: December 5, 2022

Funded by the Duke Energy Foundation for a total of \$25,000 of grant funding available, not to exceed \$2,500 per business.

The past few years have created truly unprecedented challenges for small businesses across North Carolina.

To support these community needs, the Duke Energy Foundation announced that \$500,000 would be awarded across North Carolina to help local businesses – from restaurants to retailers – grow and strengthen throughout this changing environment through their Hometown Revitalization Grant Program. Funding awarded to Downtown Morehead City, Inc. totals \$25,000.

“Local storefronts and businesses are the heartbeat of towns across our service territory,” said Stephen De May, Duke Energy’s North Carolina president. “Last year’s inaugural Hometown Revitalization grants showed us the difference that strategic grants can make for towns throughout North Carolina. We’re honored to partner with local nonprofits and businesses to help build more vibrant communities.”

Hometown Revitalization Grants were awarded in 20 communities across the state. Downtown Morehead City, Inc. has established a **Small Business Support Grant** program to deploy the funding to our downtown business community. Grants may range from \$500 to \$2,500 per individual business (as funds are available).

This is a reimbursable grant. Proof of payment to vendors must be presented to DMC, Inc. along with your application or prior to receiving reimbursement.

Guidelines:

1. Applicants must:
 - a. Be a for-profit company.
 - b. Have a storefront property between 4th and 18th Streets in downtown Morehead City (nonprofits that operate a storefront small business, like a resale store, may apply).
 - c. Employ less than 50 employees (in total, if more than one location).
 - d. Have been in business for at least one year prior to the date of this application.
 - e. Have been affected by economic factors in the past four years.
 - f. Appropriate small business expenditures may include:

- i. Enhanced service or commerce opportunities, such as modifying physical space, technology to improve online sales or expanding capacity for delivering goods and services
 - ii. Furniture for expanded outdoor capacity, such as materials for construction of takeout windows, accessibility compliance for additional outdoor seating, additional fixtures required for compliance with public health issues.
 - iii. Storefront beautification projects enhancing the appearance of the business and downtown region. For example, new exterior paint, awnings, signage, or planters.
 - iv. Tools or programs to support the business's workforce needs. For example, working with a recruiter, paying to list job opportunities or tuition for a training program.
 - v. The small business support awards may be used to reimburse small businesses for expenses already incurred, original receipts must be provided with the application.
 - g. Complete the attached application.
2. The Grant is not available for:
 - a. Governmental entities
 - b. Churches or evangelical organizations
 - c. Organizations with a substantial purpose of influencing any political, legislative, or regulatory cause
 - d. Payroll, salary, incentive pay, rent, utilities
3. A new project may require a building permit; therefore, the applicant must meet with the Town of Morehead City Planning Department/Building Inspector to make sure the proposed project follows the building code and that proper building permits have been attained if needed.
4. Applications may be found at www.downtownmoreheadcity.com and must be received no later than December 5, 2022. A Hometown Revitalization Grant Review team will then score the applications.
 - a. Applications should be submitted to DMC, Inc.:
 - i. By email: lisa@downtownmoreheadcity.com
 - ii. On the website via Google Docs
 - iii. By mail: DMC, Inc., 1001 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557
 - iv. In Person by Appointment: DMC, Inc. office, 252-808-0440
5. Recipients of grants will be notified no later than January 9, 2023.
6. Applicants pay invoices in their entirety. The grant will be made on a reimbursement basis only.
7. Upon completion of the work/project, proof of payment, and a photo of the project (if applicable) must be sent to the DMC, Inc. office:
 - i. By email: lisa@downtownmoreheadcity.com or
 - ii. Via website uploaded into Google Docs
 - iii. By mail: DMC, Inc., 1001 Arendell Street, Morehead City, NC 28557
 - iv. In Person by Appointment: DMC, Inc. office, 252-808-0440

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT 2022 APPLICATION

Business Name: _____

Amount applying for (between \$500-\$2500) _____

Address (must be located between 4th-18th Streets):

Applicant Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Applicant Email: _____

Description (must fall in one of the below categories):

_____ Enhanced Service or Commerce Opportunity

_____ Furniture for Expanded Outdoor Capacity

_____ Storefront Beautification

_____ Tools to Support Workforce Needs

Description of Project (in detail):

Is this a retroactive project (yes or no): _____ Date completed: _____

Is this a new project (yes or no) : _____

Pictures/sketches attached (please check): _____

Anticipated finish date if new project: _____

Questions:

How will this Small Business Grant help your business most?

