



City of South Milwaukee

Bucyrus New Business Grant Program

BACKGROUND

The Bucyrus Steam Shovel & Dredge Co called South Milwaukee home for 118 years until 2011 when the company was acquired by Caterpillar Global Mining. In September 2021, the Bucyrus Foundation (established in the 1970s) announced a \$10 million contribution to institutions and infrastructure for the City of South Milwaukee (City), stretched over a 10-year period. These funds are allocated between the City and South Milwaukee School District.

NEW BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the Bucyrus New Business Grant Program is to provide one-time assistance to new and existing businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant commercial space on Milwaukee Avenue between 800 and 1300 blocks.

GRANT FUNDING

The Bucyrus Foundation will provide \$5,000 grants to approved businesses.

Each grant awarded will be evaluated and a post-grant report is required for each grant received.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, an applicant must have submitted an occupancy permit through the City of South Milwaukee and must either provide proof of an active lease for their commercial space or documentation showing they are the owner of the commercial space.

- The lease must be for at least one year.
- The business must be open to the public at least 25 hours per week.
- The storefront space must be at least 500 square feet.
- The space must also have been vacant for a period of at least 60 days.
- The space is a storefront located on Milwaukee Avenue on the 800 to 1300 blocks.

Grants may be awarded prior to receiving a Certificate of Occupancy and shall require payback should a business not open or does not meet the required minimum hours open to the public. Funds are available on or after January 1, 2023.

Eligible Grant Items

- a) Commercial lease/mortgage payments.
- b) Business operating expenses.
- c) Commercial building repair and tenant improvements.

Ineligible Businesses

- a) The business is part of a national or regional chain, unless the business is an independently owned and operated franchise.
- b) Dead storage.
- c) Home-based businesses unless the business unit is moving into a vacant commercial space to support functions of the business.
- d) Businesses engaged in any illegal activity under federal, state, or local law.

GRANT PROCESS

- 1) **Step 1 Preliminary Letter of Interest.** Submit a letter of interest and request eligibility to apply for a grant. The letter should be a brief, typed, one page summary which outlines the applicant's intent for using the funds. The City will notify those businesses that they preliminarily qualify as candidates for a grant and will be invited to complete and submit a formal application.

Submit letters of interest to: elang@smwi.org

2) Step 2 Application Checklist:

Grant applications may be found at www.smwi.org.

- a) Every application must provide the following information:
 - Business name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - Email
 - Website and/or Social Media information
 - EIN/Federal ID number or Social Security number
- b) Property owner permission form, provided directly by owner
- c) Attachments:
 - One-page statement of the business' mission and intent for the funds.
 - Proof of lease or building ownership

SCHEDULE & SUBMISSIONS

Program information will be available annually starting January 2023. Letters of interest and applications may be submitted digitally via email (Microsoft Word or PDF), dropped off at the City Administration building, or mailed. Letters of Interest and Application narratives (2b) must be typed. Application review is approximately 30 days.

Applicants should submit their completed request to:

Mail or Drop Off:

City of South Milwaukee
Economic Development Department
2424 15th Avenue
City of South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Email: elang@smwi.org, including application and required attachments.

For more information about the grant, call 414-762-2222 ext. 135

AWARDED GRANTS & REPORTING

The grant recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement and a post-grant report is required for each grant received. A post-grant report, including financial/expenditure information, is required. Include a one-page account of how the funds were spent.

Organizations receiving grants must allow the City of South Milwaukee and the Bucyrus Foundation to use the name of the recipient organization in our publicity. Recipients are encouraged to recognize the City of South Milwaukee and Bucyrus Foundation in their media outlets.