**OPPORTUNITY ZONE GRANT FUND**

The South Carolina Department of Commerce has established The Opportunity Zone Grant Fund under which South Carolina governmental entities (counties and/or municipalities) may request funding to offset the costs of obtaining an outside vendor to assist in the structuring of a competitive Opportunity Zone Prospectus. The program also allows the third party vendor to assist the governmental entity in determining the best project to pursue.

Should any South Carolina governmental entity have an interest in applying for funding assistance, they may find a copy of the application on-line at SCopportunityzone.com. The entity must complete the application in full and attach a copy of the proposal from the vendor that the entity would like to employ. It is the responsibility of the applicant to follow their individual procurement process.

The selected vendor’s proposal MUST include the following:

(1) The vendor must demonstrate that they have expertise in the field of work directly related to the project and that they have a clear understanding of the local marketplace.

(3) The vendor must provide a detailed description of the process through which they will work with the unit of local government to achieve the required tasks.

(4) The completed document must reflect a clearly defined, aggressive package that is acceptable to the applicant. In addition, it should also prove that the project has long-term sustainability to match the Opportunity Zone 7 –10 year investment window.

**Application Submittal**

The Opportunity Grant Fund program is a competitive grant program. Limits regarding funding are as follows:

* *Targeted Rural Counties* (Allendale, Bamberg, Lee & Williamsburg) - *Up to* *75%* of proposal costs
* *Tiers 3 & 4* - *Up to 50%* of proposal costs
* *Tiers 1 & 2 - Up to 25%* of proposal costs

*(MAXIMUM Grant award for any applicant will be $25,000)*

In an attempt to move quickly, we currently have identified three application submittal dates:

* ***Round 1 Applications Due - March 1st***
* ***Round 2 Applications Due - March 15th***
* ***Round 3 Applications Due – July 1st***

**Grant Awards**

An Advisory Committee representing five entities will review and score each application. This Advisory Committee consists of representatives from The Council on Competitiveness, The South Carolina Association of Counties, The Municipal Association of South Carolina, The Rural Infrastructure Authority and the South Carolina Department of Commerce. The Advisory Committee will provide the Secretary of Commerce a listing of recommended applications to approve. Grant awards will be announced as follows:

* ***Round 1 Announced Grant Awards - March 15th***
* ***Round 2 Announced Grant Awards - April 1st***
* ***Round 3 Announced Grant Awards – July 15th***

**Grant Application**

|  |  |  |  |
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| **Grant Applicant:**  |   | **Date Submitted:** |       |
| **Project Title:** |       |
| **Project Address:** |       |
| **City, State and Zip:** |       |
| **County:** |       |
| **County Development Status:** | [ ]  **Tier I or II County** [ ]  **Tier III or IV County** [ ]  **Targeted Counties**  |

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| **Type of Project** |
| [ ]  **Real Estate** [ ]  **Redevelopment** [ ]  **Housing** [ ]  **Infrastructure** [ ]  **Transportation** [ ]  **Commercial** [ ]  **Business Investment** [ ]  **Other:** |
| **Summary of** **Project Need:** |       |
| **Brief Project Description:** |       |
| **Expected Project Outcomes:** |       |
| **Contact Information** |
| **Contact Information** | **Name/Title** | **Phone** | **Email Address** |
| **Individual Completing Application:** |       |  |  |
| **Individual Responsible for Project:**  |       |  |  |

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| **Vendor Information** |
| **Selected Vendor** | **Mailing Address** | **E-Mail**  | **Telephone** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Vendor Personnel Assigned** |
| **Name** | **Title/Position** | **E-Mail** | **Telephone** | **Cell Phone** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Funding Request** |
|  | **Amount** | **Percent of Total Project Cost** | **Percent Equity** |
| **Opportunity Zone Funds Requested:** | $ |  |  |
| **Other Funds (List if available)** |  |  |  |
| **Total Project Cost: $** |
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| **Certification** |

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| *As the Chief Executive Official for the applicant, I certify that the information submitted in this request and the attachments is complete and correct and that the applicant has authorized the submission of this grant application for SC Opportunity Zone Grant funding to assist in carrying out the project described herein. I concur with the commitments implied and contained in this application and agree to abide by the program requirements as well as any future grant assessments. The applicant certifies that it has complied with state law with respect to the submission and contents of this application and has disclosed any conflicts of interest with regard to the project.* |
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| --- | --- |
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| **Name of Chief Executive Official****(Elected or Administrative)** | **Title**  |
|   |          |
| **Signature** | **Date** |