

Pajaro Small Business Beautification Grant Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is the application deadline?

All applications must be submitted online on www.montereycountyworks.com by May 16, 2025.

2. What if my business is not located in either the evacuation or flood zone?

Businesses that are not located in either the evacuation or flood zone are not eligible for Round 2 funding.

3. Can I apply if I already received funding from Round 1?

All existing applicants are encouraged to apply if their approved beautification from Round 1 is already completed, either to request funding for new beautification work or funding to offset additional costs paid out-of-pocket by the business.

4. If I am an existing applicant, do I need to fill out a new application and resubmit all my documents?

Existing applicants are still required to fill out a new application, but are exempt from resubmitting most of the required documents except for a select few.

5. Can I apply if my business is owning residential property?

Applications submitted that do not clearly meet the eligibility criteria, such as for ownership of residential properties, are not eligible for Round 2 funding.

6. Do I still qualify if my business is not located in Pajaro, but the mailing address is (i.e. P.O. box)?

Businesses must be owned, operated, and located in Pajaro to be considered eligible.

7. Can I apply for both the Small Business Assistance Program and the Individual & Household Assistance Program?

As long as applicants qualify for both programs and are not requesting duplication of benefits, they may apply.

8. How much money can my business receive if approved?

Storefront businesses can receive up to \$15,000.

9. What if I am unable to provide one or more of the required documentation?

Our team will work with each applicant to allow as much flexibility as possible when it comes to the types of documents that can be submitted, as long as the documents still meet the eligibility criteria.

10. What if I would like to request funding for Round 2 of Beautification, but I do not have a quote from a licensed contractor ready when I submit my application?

The application will not be reviewed until the quote is received and will be based on funding availability.

11. What is the process for requesting and receiving funding for Round 2?

Quotes obtained from licensed contractors for work that still needs to be done must be attached to the application. If a quote is not attached, the application will not be reviewed for approval until it is received and must be submitted before the application period ends on May 16, 2025. If the business owner does not own the building, written approval from the landlord guaranteeing that the tenant will neither be evicted or have rent increased after beautification is completed IS required. If the quote is approved, 50% of the quoted amount will be issued first after an onsite inspection is completed. Once the work has been completed, a final inspection will be conducted and the remaining balance up to a maximum total of \$15,000 will be issued.

12. Am I required to obtain a quote from a licensed contractor? Does the work also need to be done by a licensed contractor? What else do I need to submit?

Funding will not be approved or issued without a quote from a licensed contractor, in addition to written approval from the landlord if the business owner does not own the building. To ensure that the work is done properly and all safety precautions are taken, all approved beautification work must also be done by the licensed contractor that provided the approved quote.

13. If my business is approved, how long do I have to complete beautification?

All approved beautification work must be completed within 60 days, unless other arrangements are made with the Monterey County Workforce Development Board due to unexpected delays, shortage of materials, etc.

14. How will I receive my check if my application is approved?

If your application is approved, our team will call to notify you and arrange a date / time for us to hand-deliver in Pajaro.

15. What documents am I required to bring to pick up my check?

All business owners are required to bring their government-issued photo identification when signing for their check to be released. Our team may also ask a few questions during this time, to collect applicant feedback on the overall program experience.

16. When can I expect to receive my Form 1099-MISC to file with my 2024 taxes?

Form 1099-MISC for each approved applicant is estimated to be available in January 2026 and will be mailed to the address listed on the Vendor Data Record Form.

17. Will my information be shared if my application is approved?

Recipients of funds from the Pajaro Small Business Assistance Program should be aware that the payment of those funds by Monterey County will be reported to other

governmental agencies. The purpose of the reporting is to ensure that if a recipient later collects any other funds as compensation for damages suffered due to flooding, the funds from the Pajaro Small Business Assistance Program are subtracted from any such collection. This statement is not an admission of any sort regarding potential liability by Monterey County or other agencies connected with the Pajaro River flood control efforts.