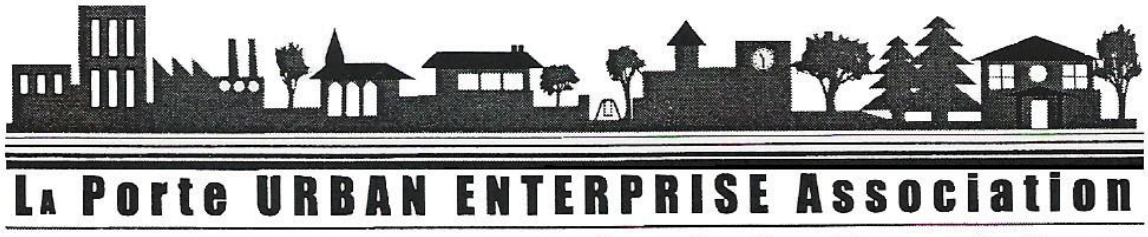

2026
BUSINESS GRANT
APPLICATION

Applications are due by the third day of each month.

Revised 01/02/2026

La Porte Urban Enterprise Association
2026 Business Grant Application

DATE: _____

_____ _____
APPLICANT'S NAME CONTACT NAME & TITLE

_____
NAME OF ZONE BUSINESS

_____
PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF ZONE BUSINESS CITY STATE ZIP

_____
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT) CITY STATE ZIP

_____ _____
EMAIL PHONE

Federal ID No. _____

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED: $_____

(The amount requested is to be 50% of the total project amount not to exceed $10,000.)

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: $_____

SITE LOCATION (if different than physical address listed above):

_____

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

_____

_____

_____

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:_____

HOW MANY EMPLOYEES WORK AT THIS LOCATION?

_____

HOW MANY EMPLOYEES RESIDE WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE ZONE?

_____

HOW MANY JOBS WILL BE CREATED/ RETAINED AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT?

_____

Have you previously received a grant from LPUEA? ☐ No ☐ Yes.

If yes, list the year(s): _____

The information in this application submitted by the undersigned is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Each document is a true and correct statement of the present situation of the grantee and/or applicant. The undersigned authorizes the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association to check all references to verify the validity of the aforementioned information contained in this document. I also give permission for the use of the business name and photographs that may be taken by the LPUEA or a representative for media purposes.

In exchange for the Grant provided by the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association, Inc., the Grantee agrees, along with Grantee's heirs, successors, and assigns, to maintain ownership of the Property for a minimum term of three (3) years after the Improvements are completed (the "Recapture Period"). If the Grantee continues to maintain ownership of the Property during the Recapture Period, repayment of the Grant will be forgiven. Should ownership of the Property be sold, rented, transferred, or abandoned during the three (3) year period after the Grant is paid, the Grantee agrees to repay the Grant to the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association, Inc.

I agree that work will not begin until after I have been notified in writing that the grant has been awarded.

SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

Please return the completed application to the LPUEA, 801 Michigan Ave., La Porte, IN 46350 or email to marichards@cityoflaportein.gov. Should you have any questions, please call (219) 362-8260.

La Porte Urban Enterprise
Association
2026 Business Grant
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The mission of the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association is to be a comprehensive economic and community development organization that fosters new investments, partnerships, job creation, and redevelopment of the La Porte Enterprise Zone.

Introduction – The City of La Porte Urban Enterprise Association (hereinafter referred to as LPUEA) desires to financially assist La Porte Urban Enterprise Zone Businesses in the rehabilitation of their building or property. Funds are available in the form of a grant to all qualifying applicants. The LPUEA will reimburse 50% of the eligible costs not to exceed $10,000.00, with a minimum project cost of $3,000.00.

Purpose – The Business Grant Program is intended to promote visual improvements, historic preservation, and structural integrity within the La Porte Enterprise Zone business community.

Eligibility – The business improvement must be physically located and operating within the La Porte Urban Enterprise Zone. All taxes and zone contributions must be current, and the applicant can have no history of significant code violations. The LPUEA will consider an application from either a current or past beneficiary each calendar year. A zone business shall not have an open grant award at the time of application for a new business grant. Priority consideration will be given to:

A. Enterprise Zone Businesses which own and operate a business out of the building that is to be improved.
B. Commercial/Retail Store fronts (includes expansion).
C. Industrial Office and Manufacturing (includes expansions); and
D. New Construction

Terms:

1. Applications must be approved in writing before work is initiated. Work cannot begin until after written notification of an award being made is received by the applicant.
2. If the applicant is the owner of building requiring improvements, submit an electronic copy of the owner's valid driver's license.

3. Three (3) cost estimates - two from La Porte County vendors must accompany the application. Applicants may choose the quote to use for the project. The LPUEA will pay 50% of the chosen quote with a limit of $10,000.00. A photo of the project site is to be submitted with the application. All photos are to be mounted on an 8.5" x 11" paper with a description of the pictures included on the sheet. If a La Porte County vendor is unable to provide an estimate, please document on the application.

4. Applicants rehabilitating historic structures, as identified in the La Porte County Interim Report, must make exterior improvements in keeping with the historic character of the structure. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required when the Business Grant Application is submitted.

5. If the structure to benefit from the grant is located within the downtown district, the applicant must follow the Downtown Design Standards and apply for approval to the Downtown Design Standards Review Committee prior to obtaining LPUEA board approval of the grant application. Information on Downtown Design Standards is found at www.cityoflaporte.com. Click the tab "Departments" and follow "Community Development and Planning."

6. Eligible activities for rehabilitation are:

a. Exterior painting, cleaning, or tuck pointing.
b. Historic rehabilitation
c. Awnings
d. Windows and exterior doors
e. Lead-based paint remediation
f. Interior wall rehabilitation
g. Interior painting
h. Interior structural repairs, i.e., installation of floor joists, floor jacks, load bearing wall repairs
i. Heating and air conditional improvements/replacement
j. Interior plumbing repairs/replacement
k. Ground water removal improvements such as installation of catch basins in parking lots
l. Electrical repairs, i.e., upgrading panels, increasing the service amp to the location, installation/replacement of outlets, improving lighting to energy efficient fixtures.
m. Installation of grease traps

n. Installation of fire suppression systems in residential or restaurant locations
o. Sidewalks, excluding the BID sidewalks.
p. Paving of parking lots
q. Signage/repair (A sign permit may be required.)
r. Landscaping (must be permanent)
s. Exterior lighting improvements
t. Removal of historically inappropriate materials from facades
u. Other projects approved by the LPUEA Business Committee and Board

When applying for a grant, only rehabilitation activities will be considered for reimbursement. Rehabilitation means the repair, renovation, or reconstruction of a structure or its adjoining land. Remodeling is not an activity to be considered when completing the grant application. This grant does not fund maintenance items such as appliance repair, furnace repairs, replacing leaky faucets, replacing lightbulbs, replacing batteries in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, cleaning out gutters, mowing grass, trimming bushes, raking leaves, changing furnace filters, or replacing caulk in bathrooms and around windows/doors.

7. Properly registered contractors who own the property or business applying may receive up to a 50% rebate on approved project materials only.

8. If the project requires a building permit, a contractor that is licensed with the City of La Porte is required to do the work. This contractor must also be bonded and insured. The La Porte Urban Enterprise and City of La Porte must be listed as additional insured on the Certificate of Insurance. The work must be performed in compliance with all applicable City of La Porte codes and ordinances.

   All contractors must be licensed by the City of La Porte, have general liability insurance, and worker's compensation insurance for all employees. Subcontractors must also be licensed and have the required insurance.

9. The applicant shall have no more than one year to complete all authorized work. Once all work described in the approved application is completed, the applicant will receive reimbursement.

10. LPUEA will rebate the successful applicant after work is completed and successful inspection by the LPUEA Board and/or staff, submission of:

a. A copy of the paid invoices (no cash payments),
b. A copy (front & back) of cancelled check(s),
c. A properly executed W-9 form.
d. Photos of the completed project. All photos are to be 8.5" x 11" and ion color with a description of the pictures included on the sheet.

9. In exchange for the Grant provided by the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association, Inc., the Grantee agrees, along with Grantee's heirs, successors, and assigns, to maintain ownership of the Property for a minimum term of three (3) years after the Improvements are completed (the "Recapture Period"). If the Grantee continues to maintain ownership of the Property during the Recapture Period, repayment of the Grant will be forgiven. Should ownership of the Property be sold, rented, transferred, or abandoned during the three (3) year period after the Grant is paid, the Grantee agrees to repay the Grant to the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association, Inc.

Application and Approval Regulations

1. An eligible business shall submit the application to LPUEA office for staff review and processing. Approvals from the Downtown Design Standards Committee, or the Historic Preservation Committee shall be attached.
2. The Board of Directors approves or denies the recommendations.
3. All applicants shall be notified in writing of approval/denial.
4. Businesses are awarded grants within the limits of the annual budget.

If demand exceeds funds, projects may be approved or denied using criteria such as: jobs created number of EZ residents employed, and structural vs cosmetic improvements, location, and overall project costs. The LPUEA reserves the right to modify grant requirements based on unique circumstances. All decisions are final.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Action Taken: ☐ Approved.
☐ Modified.
☐ Denied.

Date Action Taken: _____

Amount of Grant to be Paid: _____

Date of Final Inspection: _____

Date Grant Paid: _____