

Project BRIDGED Grant Application Form

Chinese American Chamber of Commerce - MN (CACC-MN) has partnered with the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), in offering Project BRIDGED (**B**ringing **R**esources and **I**nformation to **D**is-connected **G**roups for **E**conomic **D**evelopment) initiative and targeted the area hardest-hit by COVID - the Gateway District at Bloomington, and the Town Center (commercial corridor) at Eden Prairie.

SECTION I. PROGRAM INTRO

The Chinese American Chamber of Commerce has been selected as one of the partners for the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)'s the Main Street Economic Revitalization Program. We will use the funds to address commercial corridor economic development and redevelopment needs that have arisen in Eden Prairie (Town Centre) and Bloomington (- see maps). Chamber will provide no-cost grants for current or future businesses to support economic recovery from the impacts of civil unrest and the COVID-19 outbreak, including hardship suffered due to the pandemic, civil unrest, and other challenges to these commercial corridors since March 15, 2020.

A. Objectives: The grant dollars will be used to achieve these objectives:

- 1) Developing or Revitalizing properties in the selected districts harmed by the events of the past three years;
- 2) Elevating opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) businesses and developers. The business must be owned at least 51% by members represent Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), and the project will build wealth, create jobs, and stabilize the communities;
- 3) Creating and retaining permanent jobs that located in one of these commercial corridors: the Gateway District at Bloomington and the Town Center at Eden Prairie;
- 4) Supporting businesses to strengthen and diversify the clientele with a bicultural approach.

B. Eligible Projects:

- Grant funds will be used to support economic recovery projects led by nonprofits and businesses that respond to COVID-19 impacts, major closures and/or vacancies in the corridor, and widespread property damage due to civil unrest;
- Eligible entities should have with at least 51% Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) ownership;
- Projects that result in improvements to any permanent structure or other asset added to a property that adds to its value are eligible. The activities may include but are not limited to:
 - Repair or renovation of real property (including expansions and additions);
 - Building construction;
 - Landscaping, streetscaping, and related site amenities;
 - Demolition and site preparation;
 - Pre-design and design work;
 - Engineering at either Public or Privately-owned infrastructure
- PLEASE NOTE: Eligible projects do not include the purchase of real estate or business operations or business operating expenses, such as inventory, wages or working capital.

C. Grant Funds

- Funds must be spent by the end of August 2026 (potential extension possible).
- Applicants must secure 70% of the project cost. Leveraged grants can cover up to 30% of an eligible project cost up to \$750,000 in state grant funds.
- Maximum reward of \$750,000 per project.
- Matching funds may include but are not limited to funds contributed by a partner organization and insurance proceeds from an eligible recipient.
- Matching funds cannot include state or federal funds.
- Matching funds sourced from other assets and sources must be restricted for use exclusively through this program.
- An eligible project must have secured commitments for all required matching funds and all required development approvals before a leveraged grant may be distributed.

SECTION III. GRANT APPLICATION

Please answer all questions in detail, no page limits.

Please review below eligibility criteria, **you have to select ALL YES to be qualified for this Grant**. Please answer all Grant Application Questions in details, and submit as a PDF file to qiuyang@caccmn.org before October 20th, 2023 5pm, with the Subject – AGENCY NAME’s Project BRIDGED Grant Application

A. Grant Eligibility:

Yes No Project located in Gateway District at Bloomington or in Town Center at Eden Prairie;

Yes No Severely impact by COVID pandemic at the selected locations;

Yes No At least 51% BIPOC Business ownership, and pledges to continue such ownership within 5 years after the project completion;

Yes No Substantial economic impact after the development and redevelopment project at the selected area;

Yes No Leveraged Grants from CACC-MN can cover up to 30% of an Eligible Project cost up to \$750,000 in state funds. Grants must be matched with non state/non federal funds at 200% of the state’s portion of the grant. These funds can only be used for capital investments, such as:

- Repair or renovation of real property, including expansions, and additions;
- Demolition, site preparation, and building construction (either interior or exterior of the building)
- Landscaping, streetscaping, and related site amenities;
- Engineering, pre-design, and design work;
- BUT DO NOT INCLUDE: the purchase of real estate or business operations or funding ongoing business operating expenses.

B. Tell Us About You

1. Name*

First and Last name

2. Email*

3. Phone Number*

4. Preferred Contact Method (Check all that apply)*

Phone

Text

Email

5. How do you identify (select all that apply):*

- **American Indian or Alaska Native.**
- **Asian.**
- **Black or African American.**
- **Hispanic or Latino.**
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.**
- **White.**
- Choose not to specify.

C. Tell Us About Your Business or Organization

6. Business or Organization Name*

7. Your business or organization Employee Identification Number (EIN) or Tax ID Number*

Need help with your Employee Identification Number?

Visit this link: <https://irs-gov-ein-number.com/>

8. How many current employees (including yourself)?*

9. Describe your business or organization.*

10. Please share your business philosophy in supporting BIPOC members.*

11. Who owns the property where this project is proposed?*

I own the property.

_____ I rent the property. (Answer the question below)

12. If you rent the property for the proposed project, please list the name, email, and phone number of the owner. We will require a note from the property owner supporting this project.*

D. Tell Us About the Project

PLEASE NOTE: These funds can be used for capital investments, such as:

- Repair or renovation of real property, including expansions, and additions
- Demolition, site preparation, and building construction (either interior or exterior of the building)
- Landscaping, streetscaping, and related site amenities
- Engineering, pre-design, and design work

13. Address of the project site*

14. Describe the work timeline. When do you expect to start/end of the project?*

15. Why do you want to do this project? Select all that apply.*

- Widespread property damage due to fire, flood, arson, civil unrest and/or natural disasters
- One or more employer closures or multiple commercial space vacancies that have significant impact on the DMC district.
- COVID-19 impacts on travel, tourism, retail and accommodation.
- Other (describe below)

16. If you checked "Other", please describe below.*

17. How much will the project cost?*

18. Will the project be completed by the end of August, 2026?*

___ Yes ___ No

If No, please share more explanation, potential extension is possible.

19. What construction firms will do the work? Please list all firms, if known. We will require estimates from the contractors, if a grant is awarded.*

20. How many more employees (new jobs) will you need after this project is completed? AND forecasting the business revenue growth?? Please provide an explanation for the proposed estimations.*

E. Tell Us About the Project Funding

Grant requests should be no more than 30% of the project cost.

- Minimum grant award is \$7,500 (\$25,000 project or greater).
- Maximum grant award is \$750,000 (\$2.5 million project or greater).

22. What is the amount of Project BRIDGE funding being requested? Do you accept lower than the requested amount?

21. What funding have you secured so far? Please include the amount of funding from each source.*

23. All applicants that are recommended for funding will be invited to submit additional application materials (such as contractor estimates, evidence of property owner support, other funding support documents, also a pledge to continue such ownership within 5 years after the project completion). Do you acknowledge this?*

_____ Yes

Signature of the Business Owner

Date

ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5 P.M. ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2023. Please submit a PDF file with above grant application questions. All inquiries to: qiuyang@caccmn.org
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