

Small Business Enhancement Program Ineligible Improvements

INTRODUCTION

The Small Business Enhancement (SBE) Program is a reimbursement grant program that helps eligible retail, food, home-based and creative for-profit businesses purchase equipment and marketing materials associated with starting or growing a business. The Program's goal is to assist Cambridge's business owners with financial assistance to build a stronger customer base and boost sales. As the program is financed with Community Development Block Grant funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD), small business owner applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements to participate in Parts I and II.

INELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

Any improvements requiring labor made and/or paid for prior to a city contract are ineligible

The following improvements are also ineligible under the SBE Grant Program:

1. Any improvements not approved by program staff
2. Exterior changes to building façade, entryway, signage, or lighting.
3. Startup costs (e.g., funds to test a product)
4. Employee wages
5. Inventory or stock
6. Business or personal phones
7. Personal computers
8. Costs of editing books, screenplays, or other work
9. Costs associated with attending trade shows or conferences
10. Commercial or personal rent
11. Purchasing or maintenance of a business-related vehicle
12. Marketing of one product or service (for example, a website for only one item being sold or currently promoted). All marketing materials must be for promoting the Cambridge business as a whole.

Other improvements may be ineligible upon review by city staff and HUD