



Downtown Kinston Revitalization
South Queen Opportunities Grant
Fiscal Year 2024

Mission Statement:

*The mission of Downtown Kinston Revitalization is to spearhead historic commercial district revitalization **using the Main Street approach** that promotes economic development within the context of historic preservation.*

PURPOSE OF THIS GRANT

Downtown Kinston Revitalization (DKR) is excited to offer a limited number of South Queen Opportunities Grants (SQOG) for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Funding for these grants was made possible by the generous, private donations of former Kinston Mayor Buddy Rich to DKR for the sole purpose of revitalizing properties located along Queen Street, south of King Street in the Municipal Services District (MSD) in Kinston. The DKR Board of Directors has allotted \$25,000 to spearhead these inaugural grants for FY 2024. The primary focus of the grant is on qualified buildings' exterior and aesthetic needs such as paint, awnings, and windows.

SQOG application period is open from February 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024.

Grant recipients will be announced no later than April 26, 2024.

Scope of work and any grant stipulations must be complete by April 25, 2025.

BUILDING ELIGIBILITY

- Your property or business must be located on Queen Street, south of King Street and within the MSD. A map can be found at this link: <https://www.downtownkinston.com/about>.
- Your property must be up to date on property taxes.
- Tax exempt properties are ineligible.
- A building that appears unified and/or functions essentially as one building inside regardless of how many entries, utility meters or property tax cards may be associated with the property will be considered as one building/one application. In other words, if a portion of the building cannot be sold today as an individual, stand-alone building it will be considered as one building for the purposes of this grant and the limited resources dedicated to the MSD Building Improvement Grant.

- On occasion the local Historic Commission and/or State Historic Preservation officer may require consulting, particularly where the use of historic tax credits or certain inappropriate building materials and alterations are being proposed.

NOTE: Things typically regarded as routine maintenance and remodeling are not funded by this grant nor are furniture, fixtures, equipment (including HVAC), plumbing, electrical, new flooring, roof leaks and the like.

THE GRANT PROCESS

- This is a competitive grant
- This grant caps at a **\$10,000 maximum** award for the application's scope of work.
- Applications are reviewed by the DK Design Committee and Board of Directors, whose decision is final.
- Applicants will be notified of a decision no later than February 15, 2024.
- Applicant's contractor(s) must be reputable and provide references with the application
- Once approved, **work must begin within 60 days**, or you are to notify the DK office immediately of the delay and the circumstances surrounding the delay.
- Contractors will be paid by Downtown Kinston on a draw basis upon inspection and approval by the Director.
- The specific scope of work associated with this grant application may NOT begin until the grant application is reviewed and approved.
- Work already underway or completed is not applicable for reimbursement.
- Scope of work and any grant stipulations must be complete by April 25, 2025.
- Invoices must be submitted for the final grant disbursements once all work is complete. Funds will be paid directly to the applicant's vendor or contractor.
- The recipient is responsible for any tax liabilities associated with receipt of this grant award.

South Queen Opportunities Grant Application

Applying for this grant indicates the applicant has read, understands, and agrees to abide by the conditions of this application process. **Application period is open from February, 2024, through March 31, 2024.**

Name:

Mailing Address:

Job Site Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Checklist:

___ Schedule an initial design consultation with the DK Executive Director prior to submitting the application packet to ensure your proposed scope of work meets grant expectations.

Date of consultation: _____

Applications must be complete for consideration and include the following:

___ Application

___ Detailed scope of work

___ Detailed contractor quotes

___ A current insurance declarations page for the property concerned

___ Proof of current, up-to-date payment of property taxes on this property

___ Include any relevant photos or architectural drawings to illustrate your project.

Email, mail, or drop off your completed application and the required documentation with DKR's Executive Director or Office Assistant.

Email: **leonsteele17@suddenlinkmail.com**

Mailing address: **327 N. Queen St, Kinston, NC 28501**

***If you have any questions during the application process, please reach out to the DKR Executive Director for assistance and guidance. The phone number at the DKR office **(252) 525-6144**.