

SCORE Grant Evaluation Guide

This document outlines the evaluation criteria the SCORE Review Board will use when assessing grant applications. While numerical scores are assigned to each category to capture the strength of each project, the final funding decision is based on an overall qualitative assessment of how well the project meets the program goals.

1. Project Alignment with Program Goals (25 points)
 - Does the project enhance visual appeal, preserve architectural character, and improve durability?
 - Does it contribute to the overall quality of life and make downtown more inviting?
2. Economic & Community Impact (15 points)
 - Does the project contribute to business growth, tourism, or local economy?
 - Will it encourage increased foot traffic and benefit surrounding businesses?
3. Aesthetic Appeal & Design Quality (15 points)
 - Does the proposed work enhance the visual attractiveness of the area?
 - Does it align with city design guidelines and improve cohesiveness with neighboring structures?
4. Sustainability & Longevity (15 points)
 - Are durable, high-quality materials being used?
 - Will improvements last at least 10+ years with minimal maintenance?
5. Readiness & Feasibility (10 points)
 - Is the project shovel-ready, does the applicant understand the necessary permits and approvals required for the project, and have they identified a realistic plan to obtain them?
 - Can the work be completed within the required timeline (e.g., 12-18 months)?

6. Local Contractor & Material Use (10 points)

- Does the project use local contractors, architects, or materials?
- Supporting local businesses strengthens community engagement.

7. Architectural Preservation & Historical Integrity (5 points)

- Does the project maintain or restore historic elements of the building?
- Will it ensure long-term structural integrity while respecting original design?

8. Budget Justification & Cost-Effectiveness (5 points)

- Are project costs reasonable and justified?
- Are funds allocated to essential, impactful improvements?

The scores provided above offer a structured way to evaluate the strength of each project. However, they are only one part of the overall review process. Final funding decisions are based on a holistic assessment by the SCORE Review Board, considering both quantitative scores and qualitative insights.