



Placemaking Grant Program Guidelines (August 2026)

PURPOSE:

The Placemaking Grant program provides financial assistance to qualified property owners for “curb appeal” projects in the Ripley downtown district, with preference being given to projects that contribute to the Ripley Placemaking Plan, available for review at the Main Street Ripley Office, 102 South Street, Ripley. The purpose of the Placemaking Grant is to support the revitalization of downtown Ripley by stimulating private investment in high-quality improvements that enhance the walkability and neighborhood appeal of our downtown district.

GRANT AWARD COMMITTEE:

The Grant Award Committee (the “Committee”) shall include a representative from each of the collaborating agencies: Main Street Ripley, the City of Ripley, and the Jackson County Development Authority, as designated by each agency. Upon receipt of the applications hereunder, the Committee shall meet, review and determine which projects are to be selected. The Committee or its designee shall notify all selected projects by August 31, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY:

Maximum Allowable Award: The Placemaking Grant provides for a reimbursement of up to \$3,000.00 for approved projects, with a 3-to-1 match for each dollar spent by the property owner. For example:

- An approved project for a \$4,980.00 fence would receive a reimbursement of \$3,000.00
- An approved project for a \$1,200.00 replacement door would receive a reimbursement of \$900.00.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible Applicants include owners of commercial properties and owners/managers of businesses in the downtown and historic district of Ripley. Residential property owners within the South Court Street project area may also be eligible. Business owners/managers who are leasing a building for which improvements

are proposed must submit an Owner Consent Form with their completed application. The Committee reserves the right to deny funding to applicants who are delinquent on payment of fines, fees or taxes.

Eligible Areas: The Placemaking Grant is currently available in the areas described in the “PURPOSE” section of these guidelines, with preference being given to properties on or immediately adjacent to the South Court Street Placemaking project as referenced above.

Eligible Expenditures: For the purposes of this program, eligible expenditures shall include expenses related solely to those exterior improvements which are eligible for reimbursement in the project as approved by the Committee.

For the purposes of this program, eligible improvements to the primary facades include exterior building improvements (cosmetic and/or structural), signage, landscaping, and repairs. Examples include, but are not limited to: exterior painting or surface treatment, decorative awnings, window and/or door replacements or modifications, storefront enhancements, streetscape, outdoor patios and decks, and architectural features.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

All applicants must submit the following information to the Committee:

- ☐ Completed application
- ☐ Photographs of existing facade
- ☐ Plans and/or elevations of proposed improvements
- ☐ List and/or description of materials to be used
- ☐ Detailed cost estimates or bids for proposed improvements
- ☐ IRS W-9 form
- ☐ If applicant is property owner: Proof of Property Ownership OR if applicant is not property owner: Owner Consent Form

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS:

Applicants who qualify for funding must document all expenditures and provide the Committee or its designee with proof of payments (receipts, paid invoices, etc.) and photographs of completed improvements within thirty (30) days of completion. These must be submitted to the committee by October 15, 2026. Once the committee has received and reviewed all documentation, the applicant will be provided with a one-time reimbursement check for the approved amount. Reimbursement checks will be issued by Main Street Ripley by October 31, 2026.