

Main Street is open for business!

Rio Grande City Main Street Program focuses on revitalization of the downtown historic district by implementing the Four Point® approach set by the National Main Street Center. The following grants and services are offered to downtown businesses to ensure a beautiful future:

Main Street Façade Grant

This reimbursement grant is for business property owners or business tenants interested in preserving or restoring their buildings in the Rio Grande City Main Street District. Grants must be approved prior to initiating work on the project.

Main Street Commercial Revitalization Grant

This reimbursement grant assists new or expanding business for relocation costs to vacant storefronts in the Rio Grande City Main Street District. Grants must be approved prior to initiating work on the project.

Texas Main Street Design Assistance

Limited free design assistance to property owners or tenants of commercial buildings located in the Downtown District. Assistance includes: building investigation, preservation consultation, façade renderings, business sign design and graphics, investment tax-credit assistance and ADA accessibility on-site consultation.

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program

A 20% tax credit is available for the costs associated with substantially rehabilitating income-producing properties that are certified historic structures. A 10% tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of non-historic, income-producing building built before 1936.

State of Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit

A 25% business franchise tax credit is available for income-producing certified historic properties. The property must be designated at the Federal, State or local level to be eligible.



Public Utilities
(956) 487-0672
cityofrgc.com

Planning Department
(956) 488-8728
cityofrgc.com

Historic Planner
(956) 488-8728
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Starr County Gas Systems
(956) 487-2400

AEP
(877) 373-4858
aeptexas.com

Medina Electric Cooperative
(866) 632-3532
medinaec.org

Texas Historical Commission
(512) 463-6047
thc.state.tx.us

Grande Garbage Co.
(956) 487-4234
grandegarbagecollection.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(956) 488-0047



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**GUIDE
FOR NEW
DOWNTOWN
BUSINESS
OWNERS**

FAQ's - Frequently Asked Questions

I'm a new business owner in Rio Grande City. Do I need approvals or permits before I can open my business?

Yes, all businesses in the City of Rio Grande City require a valid Certificate of Occupancy prior to occupying the business space or opening to the general public. Complete the Certificate of Occupancy Application with the City of Rio Grande City Planning Department. The application review process takes up to 10 business days. Staff from the RGC Planning Department, as well as the Historic Planner, will review the business for compliance with Historic Preservation building codes.

I want to make changes to my building. Do I need approval before I begin?

Yes, you will need an approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) and permits from the City of Rio Grande City Planning Department prior to commencing work.

How do I obtain all the right permits and approvals I need to make changes to building?

The project process begins with a pre-application meeting, arranged through the Planning Department. The appropriate staff members will attend the meeting to discuss your project and the required permits. You are encouraged to bring any conceptual materials to the meeting. The Historic Planner will discuss materials needed for your Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application and how to obtain all the proper building permits.

I want to put up a new business sign. Do I need a permit and/or approval?

Yes, an approved Certificate of Appropriateness and a sign permit is required for all new signs being installed. Contact the Historic Planner for details on COA application and permit requirements.

Can I put up a banner?

Yes, but only for a limited time. You will need to visit the Planning Department Office and fill out an application for a temporary banner. For a quick review and possible approval, please submit a digital rendering of the banner, including dimensions and proposed location. A fee will be charged upon permit approval and your banner will be good for 45 days. Please note that all banners are subject to review from the Historic Planner.

Business Resources & Opportunities

✓ Rio Grande City Main Street Facebook page postings:

Rio Grande City Main Street, Meet Me Downtown in Rio Grande City

✓ Main Street Storefront Sign

Small outdoor hanging sign courtesy of the Rio Grande City Main Street Program

✓ Quarterly networking & training opportunities:

Mixers on Main Business Social, Rio Grande City EDC Lunch & Learn Workshops & UTRGV Small Business Development Center Seminars

✓ Monthly e-newsletter:

Sign up for our monthly newsletter at www.rgcedc.com and get the latest news from Rio Grande City EDC and Main Street.

#meetmedowntown

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Building Projects & Planning Process

Design approval is required for changes to any building or property in the Historic and Main Street Downtown Districts (see map).

The Historic Planner (956) 488-8728

- 1 Schedule a Pre Application Meeting with the Planning Department.** They will determine what applications and approvals are needed to start your project. Bring all conceptual materials to this meeting for review by the Historic Planner and other city staff.
- 2 Complete and submit all required applications for the project.** Various city departments and commissions will review each component of the project to ensure compliance with all local regulations, including local development codes and building codes.
- 3 Once your design is approved, the Historic Planner will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to indicate that work may begin.** Please call the City of Rio Grande City Planning Department for additional information regarding COAs. Allow 60 days from the time of your Pre-Application Meeting for review, design approval and issuance of COA.
- 4 Begin work on your project AFTER applications are complete and permits are issued.** Be sure to schedule the appropriate inspections throughout the process to avoid unnecessary delays.

Application Type	COA	Building Permit
Certificate of Occupancy		✓
Business Signage	✓	✓
Exterior Alterations	✓	✓
Interior Alterations		✓