Main Street is open for business!
It’s not by chance that Georgetown’s Main Street and Downtown Square continue to thrive as a bustling city center. Concentrated efforts and careful planning have aided in its growth, while proven approaches to economic development and historic preservation have led to enhanced vibrancy. The following grants and services are offered to downtown businesses to ensure a beautiful future:

Facade Reimbursement Grant
Available to businesses and property owners for proposed exterior work on storefronts, ADA improvements, fire suppression and for roof and foundation work on commercial buildings located in the Downtown Overlay District (see map). Funds are provided on a 50/50 matching basis up to $20,000 per grant. Grants must be approved prior to initiating work on the project.

Sign Reimbursement Grant
Available to business owners for proposed signage on commercial buildings located in the Downtown Overlay District. Funds are provided on a 50/50 matching basis up to $500 per grant.

Texas Main Street Design Assistance
Limited free design assistance (not for regulatory approval, permit or construction) to property owners or tenants of commercial buildings located in the Downtown Overlay District. Assistance includes: building investigation, preservation consultation, facade 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 buildings 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.
I'm a new business owner in Georgetown. Do I need approvals or permits before I can open my business?
Yes, all businesses in the city of Georgetown require a valid Certificate of Occupancy prior to occupying the business space or opening to the public. As soon as you know you are moving into a new building, complete the Certificate of Occupancy Application with the Building Inspections & Permits Department.

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) from the Historic & Downtown Planner and permit from Inspection Services prior to commencing work.

I want to put up a new business sign. Do I need a permit and/or approval?
Yes, an approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) and a sign permit are required for all new signs. Review from the Historic & Downtown Planner and permit from Inspection Services are required before installation.

Considering Georgetown as a new location for your business? Thinking of expanding your business? Need more space? Let us help you explore the options, resources, and gain insight to planning and permitting.

Design approval is required for changes to any building or property in the Downtown Overlay District (see map).

Building Permits & Planning Process

FREE business listing on:
- visit.georgetown.org

City Facebook page postings:
- Downtown Georgetown, Texas
- Shop Georgetown

Town Square Directory sign business listing

FREE Quarterly networking & educational opportunities:
- Breakfast Bites and Downtown Lowdown Program

Educational Workshops

Frequently Asked Questions

STEP 1
Schedule a Pre-Application Meeting with the Planning Department. This will help determine what approvals and applications are needed to start your project.

STEP 2
Complete and submit all required applications for the project.

STEP 3
Once designs are approved, the Historic & Downtown Planner will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to indicate that work may begin.

STEP 4
Apply for building permits. Begin work on your project AFTER applications are complete and permits issued.

The Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Program is a community-based program used to open lines of communication and build relationships with the local business community. The BR&E team may serve as a point of contact for assistance with workforce training and hiring, permitting for expansions, business issues, and general information about city policies and processes impacting your business.

If you would like to schedule a BR&E visit, please contact the Downtown Development Manager at 512.930.2027 or mainstreet@georgetown.org.