SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION

ABOUT THE DDA

Voters established the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in November 2006 to provide programs and financial incentives to encourage Downtown development. DDA is governed by a board of 11 people appointed by Colorado Springs City Council. Downtown Partnership executes the work of the DDA as a contracted affiliate. In 2026, City Council adopted the Elevate Downtown Plan as the updated plan of development for DDA. The DDA is funded in two ways: first, by a 5-mill tax levy within the district to support its operations, and second, through Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The latter tax is the capture of increased property tax revenues following a baseline assessment. TIF revenues go into a special fund and as it grows, the funds can be leveraged for support of Downtown projects. The DDA's TIF will expire in 2037. The DDA board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month.

MISISON OF THE DDA

To build public and private investment partnerships that promote the economic growth of Downtown Colorado Springs.

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

The Elevate Downtown Plan serves as the plan of development for DDA. The plan was created in 2026 as an update to the Experience Downtown Plan, which governed the DDA from 2016 through the newest plan's adoption in 2026. The plan can be found at: DowntownCS.com/elevate

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The DDA encompasses roughly two square miles of Downtown. For a map, click here.

WHAT ARE SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS?

Special project grants are funds provided for initiatives that address the goals of the Elevate Downtown Plan but do not readily fall into the primary categories of Building Enhancements, Signature Events or major developments for consideration of Tax Increment Financing. These projects most likely could include feasibility studies or other studies and reports; public safety initiatives; or other efforts to enhance the economic vitality of Downtown.

Because Special Projects are unique in nature, there is not a formal application. Applicants are asked to provide a letter of one to three pages that includes:

- Date of application
- Applicant name (business, nonprofit, etc.)
- Contact name, title
- Contact email, phone number, mailing address
- An explanation of the special project and how it will enhance the goals of the Elevate Downtown Plan.
- Total budget for project, demonstrating anticipated revenue and expenses, with revenue indicated as secured or projected
- Total amount requested of DDA
- Total amount requested reflected as a percentage of the total project cost

If funds are awarded, applicants must sign a grant agreement within 30 days of receipt and agree to provide a final report on use of funds; when studies or reports are funded, applicants may be asked to provide updates and/or present final findings to the board.

All decisions concerning aspects of the grant application process, including eligibility, are within the sole discretion of the Downtown Development Authority board.

Submit grant application and supporting documents electronically to:
info@downtowncs.com
Address questions to Downtown Partnership at 719.886.0088.