

Inventory of Small Business Support

The City's business resource web pages have been updated to reflect the enhanced business friendly supports available to businesses at all stages.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the City of Edmonton website. It includes the Edmonton logo, a search bar for 'edmonton.ca', and a menu with categories like '311', 'Jobs', 'Contact', 'Activities, Parks & Recreation', 'Attractions & Events', 'Business & Economy', 'City Government', 'City-run Projects & Plans', 'Driving, Cycling & Walking', 'Home & Neighbourhood', 'Programs & Services', and 'Transit (ETS)'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Home', 'Business & Economy', and 'Business Friendly Support'. The main content area features the heading 'Business Friendly Support' and a section titled 'IN THIS SECTION' with a grid of links: 'Business Improvement Areas', 'Starting a Commercial Business', 'Small Business Support Grants', 'Small Business Workshops', 'Small Business FAQ', and 'One-On-One Support Program'.

i Please refer to [COVID-19 Support for Edmonton Businesses](#) for information and resources available to you during this difficult time.



Businesses are the foundation of the Edmonton economy. Entrepreneurs and business owners are job creators and community builders.

If you are opening or operating a business in Edmonton, we have the business friendly programs and services to make your experience as easy as possible. Whether you are looking to open a home-based business, or choose a new site for your manufacturing plant, our team provides customized support to business owners of all sizes and stages.

Attachment 1



Digital Economy Program

This program is open to small businesses with 49 or fewer employees that are seeking to undergo a digital transformation and build their online presence (such as e-commerce, web presence and social media strategy).



Your success is our business

Our one-on-one support service can answer all of your business licensing and permitting questions.



Starting a Commercial Business

Resources to help your business grow, including one-on-one support to get your new business off the ground.



Small Business Workshops

Are you thinking about opening a small business? The City of Edmonton hosts a series of workshops and presentations to help set you up for success.



Business Support Grants

Grants to support business and community vibrancy



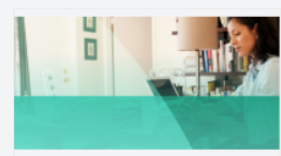
Business Improvement Areas

Playing a crucial role in supporting the vibrancy, economic health, and appeal of many of the city's key commercial areas.



FAQ for Commercial Businesses

Looking to start a business in Edmonton? Answers to frequently asked questions can be found here.



Home-Based Business

Rules and requirements for operating a home-based business in the city.

Business Friendly Edmonton

Services	Description
Tailored Business Supports (ongoing)	The Business Friendly Edmonton team delivers the One-on-One Business Support Service which works individually with business owners to help them understand their regulatory requirements including zoning, building codes and business licenses. They prepare City of Edmonton service references (e.g. visuals and fact sheets) for businesses so they understand the municipal regulatory journey, when to engage the City, and the importance of quality applications. These supports route and respond to emergent issues and inquiries so that businesses can find a resolution. Additionally, this service connects entrepreneurs to other resources and supports outside of the City (e.g. Business Link, Innovate Edmonton, PrairiesCan).
Education and Business Outreach (ongoing)	The Business Friendly Edmonton team partners with industry groups and organizations to deliver City-specific process education. This includes educating businesses on their responsibilities as applicants, and the role of the City as a regulator and enabler. The team also produces communication materials (e.g. process roadmaps) to businesses in order for them to make informed decisions.

Attachment 1

Investment Attraction and Aftercare (in development)	Business Friendly Edmonton coordinates investment attraction activities to support lead partners, and convenes the correct City people to respond. It facilitates strategic relationships between senior leaders at the City and key corporate partners. This work is often done to support investment leads managed by Edmonton Global. A major component is site selection support that integrates expertise from across the corporation in order to make strong, competitive pitches on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) opportunities. For more complex cases, the Client Liaison Unit assists with the permitting process.
Steward Innovation (in development)	Shepherd innovative businesses with a vetted product or service to test in/with the City in alignment with its external partners, such as Innovate Edmonton. Connect businesses with the appropriate City section to test a concept that demonstrates benefit to the City and the business.

Tools	Description
Financial Tools	
Storefront Improvement Program	<p>Matching reimbursement grants for commercial property owners with properties <u>located in Business Improvement Areas</u>, designed to help support exterior renovations.</p> <p>Status: Active since 2003 Funded By: Reserve Outcomes: The Program has supported 275 renovation projects, has been able to fully allocate annual funding over the last five years, and is an important differentiating support for businesses within BIAs.</p>
Development Incentive Program	<p>Matching reimbursement grants for interior renovations to ground-floor commercial units that have been vacant for six or more months, and for new mixed-use or over two storey commercial construction <u>in Business Improvement Areas</u>.</p> <p>Status: Active since 2008, funded annually since 2019 Funded By: Reserve Outcomes: The Program has supported 44 completed projects to date, and with annual funding the program is becoming increasingly utilized.</p>
Corner Store Program	<p>The Corner Store Grant Program supports the revitalization of Neighbourhood Commercial Areas by encouraging investment in existing commercial buildings and local businesses <u>outside of Business Improvement Areas</u>. This program offers matching reimbursement grants for facade renovations, interior renovations, and business support. Larger grants are aligned with Neighbourhood Renewal.</p> <p>Status: The CSP began as a pilot in 2015 and became policy in 2019 Funded By: Reserve Outcomes: The program has completed 30 projects, has 29 under construction and 25 preparing applications. Some CSP projects that align with neighbourhood renewal also include infrastructure upgrades with seven sites completed and 29 in progress.</p>

Attachment 1

Tools	Description
Economic Action Plan Grant	<p>The grant program provides matching reimbursement grants of up to \$25,000 for projects and programs that support the outcomes of the Economic Action Plan.</p> <p>Status: Application intake opened in June 2021 and will be ongoing</p> <p>Funded By: Funded through the approved funding under the Edmonton Economic Recovery Grant, from dedicated Covid recovery funding from the Financial Stabilization Reserve</p> <p>Outcomes: The program has approved 12 applications, with two approved applications that have entered into reimbursement agreements. There are three applications that are awaiting evaluation.</p>
Building Energy Retrofit Accelerator (BERA)	<p>The program aims to address the emissions resulting from the operations of commercial and institutional buildings by reducing the building energy intensity. The program offers financial rebates on the purchase and installation of select energy efficient equipment (e.g., lighting, controls, HVAC, building envelope).</p> <p>Status: BERA launched in June 2020 and is intended to be a three year program</p> <p>Funded By: Operating budget</p> <p>Outcomes: To date, the program has 122 active projects.</p>
Brownfield Remediation and Redevelopment Support	<p>The Program provides support for brownfield remediation and redevelopment where it advances municipal priorities. Grant funding is provided to offset costs associated with site remediation activities. The grant includes four Phases. Phases I, II and III support the identification of potential environmental issues, testing, delineation and remediation. Phase IV offers financial assistance to support sustainable remediation or innovative interim land use.</p> <p>Status: Active since 2012</p> <p>Funded By: Grant payments are funded by tax levy for Phase I, II (environmental site assessments) and IV (sustainable remediation). Phase III (remediation) grants are funded by future tax uplift from developments benefiting from the Program.</p> <p>Outcomes: To date, \$6.8 million of tax uplift has been generated with \$4.7 million paid in Phase III grants to developers and \$2.1 million in new municipal taxes retained by the City of Edmonton.</p>
Targeted Tools and Pilot Projects	
Digital Economy Program	<p>A collaboration between Business Link and Digital Main Street, the Digital Economy Program was developed to help Alberta small business owners undergo digital transformation and adopt viable eCommerce practices. In the Edmonton region, delivery is provided by the University of Alberta, an arrangement championed and set up by the City of Edmonton.</p>
Temporary Patio and Retail Extension Program	<p>This Program allows for a permit- and fee-free process that enables restaurants and retail shops to temporarily create and expand patios and retail spaces.</p> <p>Status: Work is underway on program updates for 2022 and beyond</p> <p>Funded By: Used existing resources</p> <p>Outcomes: There were over 110 applications to the program in 2020, which was subsequently extended through 2021 and experienced growth to 161 applications.</p>

Attachment 1

Tools	Description
Infill Fire Protection Assessment and Risk Assessment (pilot project)	<p>Processes to review the proposed built form for a specific site and neighbourhood risk assessment to determine the appropriate fire protection requirements and reduce fire protection infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Status: Active Program</p> <p>Funded By: No direct funding impacts as the goal of the program is to optimize infrastructure investment</p> <p>Outcomes: The Fire Rescue Services review team at the City of Edmonton has reviewed approximately 265 files since implementation of this process in July 2019. Fire Rescue Services was able to adjust the water infrastructure upgrades for 217 (82%) of the files reviewed, resulting in a total avoided cost of \$89 million to date.</p>