

SULPHUR SPRINGS AND WEST TAMPA

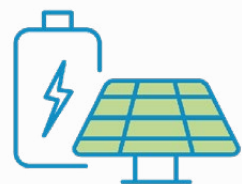
# Tampa WeatherWise Small Business Grant Program



LOOK BOOK

# What is the Program?

Sulphur Springs and West Tampa small businesses in eligible areas can receive support to strengthen their resilience against extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-related disruptions. “Resilience” refers to the ability to withstand ongoing stresses, like extreme heat, and sudden shocks, like hurricanes. We’re providing:



**Resilience Equipment & Enhancements** – access to portable resilience equipment, including flood-proof storage, indoor/outdoor fans, flood gates, portable solar-compatible backup batteries, and solar control window film.



**Major Upgrades** – assistance with high-impact improvements like a cool roof, storm panels or shutters, and shade trees.

# Why should my business be interested?

Protecting your business from extreme weather means less downtime, fewer losses, and a quicker recovery after storms, heat waves, or flooding. Installing more efficient equipment can also help keep your space cooler on hot days and cut energy costs. This program helps you prepare so your business stays open and thrives, no matter the conditions.



# How does it work?

The program provides different levels of support.

- ✓ **Most items are reimbursed at 100%** up to a certain dollar figure. For some items, the program will cover 50% of the cost.
- ✓ **Your business will need to purchase items upfront and will then be reimbursed for the equipment.** You will need to submit a completed application to the Economic Opportunity department (see page 8) for approval prior to purchasing any items. Cashback will only be provided for pre-approved items.
- ✓ **We also require businesses to develop a continuity plan** using the City of Tampa guidance and templates. If your business already has a continuity plan, you do not need to create a new one. The team may ask to see your continuity plan.

# What are the eligibility requirements?

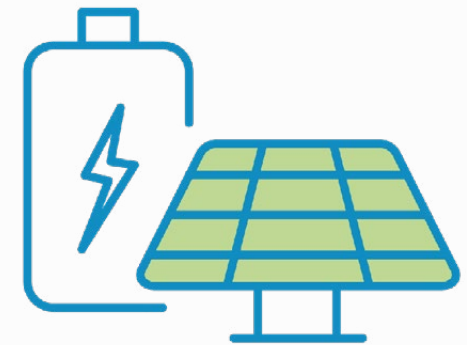
To qualify for this program, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The business must have a valid physical address within the eligible areas.
- Applicants must have 20 or fewer full-time employees.
- Applicants must be a business owner, property owner, or an authorized representative.
- Applicants must be fully licensed by the City, in good standing with all permitting requirements and not subject to outstanding code violations.
- Applicants are required to complete a Business Continuity Plan if one is not already in place.
- Applicants must provide the legal name of the business, years of operation, contact information and type of operation (NAICS Code).
- Applicants must upload a W-9 to expedite the reimbursement process, once item has been approved.

# How do I choose the equipment?

It is up to each business to choose the products that are right for them. We recommend that you research products to make sure the equipment meets your needs. The prices, lifespans, and maintenance info provided below are estimates based on local quotes; actual costs may vary. Under each product description, you will find an “equipment requirements” section which provides guidance on the necessary product standards for each item.

We recommend chatting with providers and manufacturers directly to get a clear picture of what you’re buying and how to keep it running smoothly. Additionally, the City’s Sustainability & Resilience Office team may be able to provide support to businesses that need assistance determining which equipment would be most beneficial.



Contact the City’s Sustainability & Resilience Office: [sustainability@tampagov.net](mailto:sustainability@tampagov.net)

# What if the up-front cost of purchasing an item is a barrier?

This program offers a reimbursable grant to help cover the cost of resilience equipment and enhancements (businesses will need to purchase the items up front and then be reimbursed). Be sure to check out the [Program Brochure](#), which highlights additional City of Tampa resources (including connections to microlenders via the Tampa Entrepreneurship Support Hub) that can be paired with this program.



# How to apply

1

## Get the form

Complete the online form found **here** or email the Small Business Navigator at the Economic Opportunity department, Tim Spearman, and ask for an application form.

2

## Fill out the form

Fill out the form with some basic information, including the equipment you propose purchasing and the cost to be reimbursed. Be sure to rank the priority of each item. **Do not purchase equipment prior to approval from the Economic Opportunity team.**

3

## You will be contacted

The Economic Opportunity department team will let you know if your project is approved, or if we need additional information.

**See the website:**  
[www.tampagov.net](http://www.tampagov.net)

**Reach out:**  
Cassie Schwalm | Small Business Navigator, Economic Opportunity  
E: [Cassie.Schwalm@tampagov.net](mailto:Cassie.Schwalm@tampagov.net) | P: 813-274-7431

# Deployable Flood Gates

## Estimated cost:

**\$700-\$1,000 per unit**

## Maximum covered by the program:

**\$1,000**

## Minimum business contribution:

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$1,000)

## Benefits:

Flood gates and barriers create a physical barrier to prevent water from entering your premises in the event of a flood. They are easy to use and can keep your store and stock safe.

## Equipment Requirements:

Flood barriers must meet the FM Approvals 2510 Standard (also known as ANSI 2510) and/or the BSI 851188 standard (British Standard, also known as the BSI Kitemark). Information on these standards can be found in the QR code.



# Flood-Proof Storage

Estimated cost:

**\$50-\$1,000 per unit**

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Maximum covered by the program:

**\$500**

Minimum business contribution:

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$500)

**Benefits:**

Protect important documents and stock with flood proof storage. This includes flood proof boxes or shelving to keep important items off the ground and out of harm's way.



# Storm Panels/Shutters

**Estimated cost:**

**\$500-\$4,500 per unit \***

**Maximum covered by the program:**

**\$4,500**

**Minimum business contribution:**

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$4,500)

**Benefits:**

Storm panels/shutters provide strong, reliable protection against high winds and flying debris, making them one of the most affordable and widely used options for hurricane preparedness. They are made of durable aluminum or steel and can be mounted on existing bolts or tracks, offering a cost-effective way to safeguard windows.

**Equipment Requirements:**

Storm panels/shutters must be approved by the Florida Building Code for High Velocity Hurricane Zones (HVHZ) and/or be Miami-Dade County approved.



\* Necessary installation materials (i.e. tracks, bolts) can be included in reimbursement up to the maximum covered by the program.

# Portable solar-compatible backup battery

Estimated cost:

**\$500-\$4,000**

Maximum covered by the program:

**\$2,000**

Minimum business contribution:

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$2,000)

**Benefits:**

Reliable, clean, and cost-effective solution for maintaining a power source during power outages, blackouts, or extreme weather events. Solar generators are quiet, efficient, and free from ongoing fuel costs or emissions. They can provide backup power for crucial equipment like commercial fridges, phones, tablets, and essential tools (depending on wattage), helping maintain continuity even during unexpected disruptions. They can also serve as a valuable community asset by giving neighbors a safe place to charge phones, mobility devices, or essential medical equipment during extended outages.



# Portable solar-compatible backup battery

## Recommendations:

- **5000+ wh Battery + 400 w Solar:** fridges or coolers with continuous operation (e.g. in restaurants subject to food safety regulations), large appliances, portable air conditioning
- **2000 - 4000 wh Battery +400 w Solar:** mini fridges, charging power tools, fridges and coolers with cycle backup power (intermittent cooling)
- **1000 wh Battery + 200 w Solar:** fans, misting fans, small electronics (i.e. phones, laptops, tablets, wifi, radio)
- **Input/Outputs:** Ensure the battery has the connection needed for power needs. Examples include 2 or 3-prong 120v AC, 3 or 4-prong 240v AC, USB-A, USB-C, and DC 12V
- **Weight needs to be considered for portability.** If it is more than 30-50 pounds, batteries with wheels might be helpful.

## Equipment Requirements:

**Battery:** Must be UL Certified (for safety and compliance standards). It requires a minimum capacity of 1,000 watt-hours (Wh), with a strong preference for 3,000–5,000+ Wh models to support more demanding backup needs (e.g., continuous appliance operation). The battery must provide a minimum of 1,000 charge/discharge cycles (though many qualifying modern lithium-based units, especially LiFePO4 chemistry, exceed 2,000–3,000+ cycles for longer lifespan). A warranty of at least 18 months is mandatory.

**Solar:** Panels must be 200 W or larger (with 400 W commonly recommended for optimal charging performance). They should be UL Listed where applicable, preferably waterproof (or weatherproof/rugged for portable/outdoor use), and include appropriate warranty coverage (typically 2–5+ years from the manufacturer, depending on the brand—confirm specifics with the product).

# Solar Control Film

## Estimated cost:

**\$500-\$5,000, including installation**

## Maximum covered by the program:

**\$5,000**

## Minimum business contribution:

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$5,000)

## Benefits:

Solar control film is a film applied to your windows which reduces heat gain and glare. The film insulates: it keeps warmth in during winter and cool air in during the summer. This improves indoor comfort and can lower energy bills by reducing the need for heating and cooling. The film provides UV protection, which prevents stock and items in windows from fading.

## Equipment Requirements:

Solar control film must have at least 40% visible light transmission (to ensure windows are not too dark) and should reject at least 40% of the sun's heat (infrared rejection/solar heat rejection). Lifespan: 15 years, up to 20 years. Maintenance requirements: 1-2 cleanings per year.



# Indoor/Outdoor Fans

(standing/wall-mounted)

Estimated cost:

**\$50-\$1,000 per unit**

Maximum covered by the program:

**\$500**

Minimum business contribution:

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$500)

**Fans Benefits:**

Fans provide cost-effective benefits to businesses during heat waves by creating a wind-chill effect that makes the air feel cooler. Misting fans are particularly effective at reducing ambient temperatures even when it’s above 95°F. This enhances employee and customer comfort, and reduces energy costs (compared to air conditioning systems). All necessary installation materials can be included in reimbursement, up to the maximum covered by the program.



**Equipment Requirements:**

All fans must be UL Listed (Underwriters Laboratories). Fans intended for outdoor use should be IP44 Outdoor Rated.

# Tree

**Estimated cost:**

**\$250-\$1,000**

**Maximum covered by the program:**

**\$1,000**

**Minimum business contribution:**

**\$0**

(100% covered up to \$1,000)

**Benefits:**

Trees provide shade that cools sidewalks and storefronts, making commercial areas more inviting for customers and reducing cooling costs for small businesses. They also capture stormwater, improve air quality, and enhance the overall appearance of business corridors, boosting foot traffic and property value.

**Equipment Requirements:**

Only tree species on the City of Tampa’s [Preferred Tree List](#) (excluding palm trees) are eligible for reimbursement. Trees can be planted in the ground or in a planter when appropriate but must be located on private property. Please note: this program will not fund palm trees or invasive species; preference for native species.



# Cool (Sealed) Roofs

Estimated cost:

**\$4,000-\$7,000**

Maximum covered by the program:

**\$7,000**

Minimum business contribution:

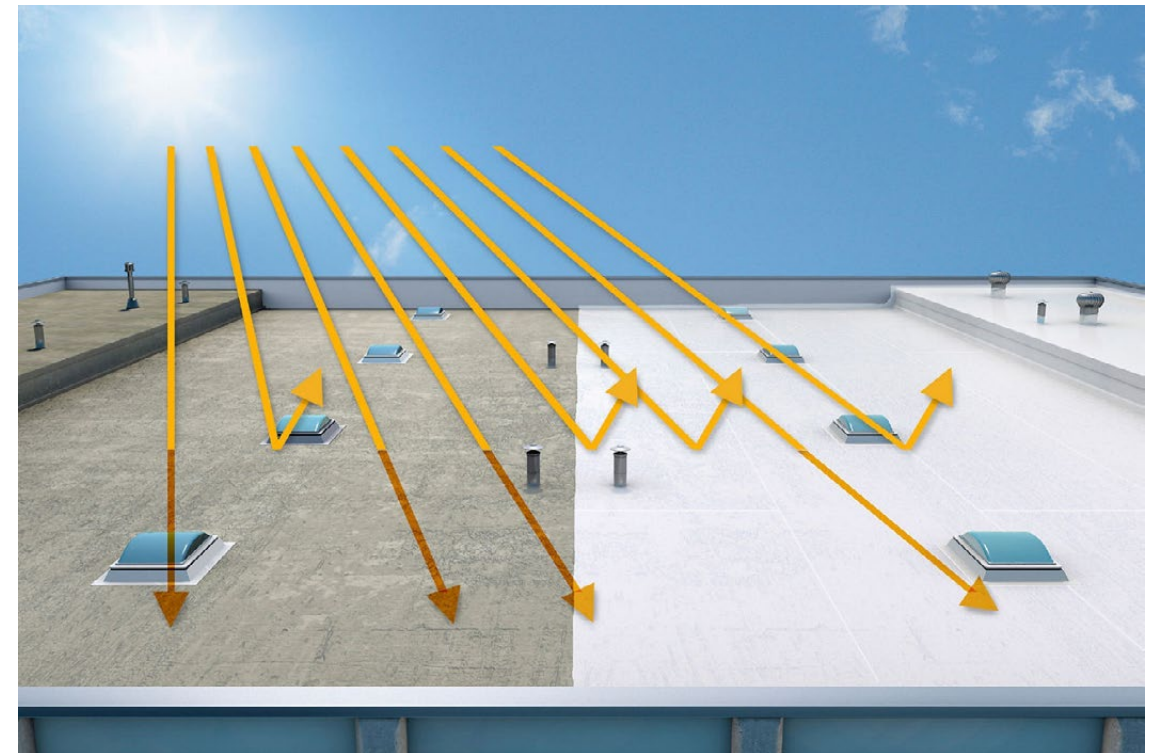
**50% match**

## Benefits:

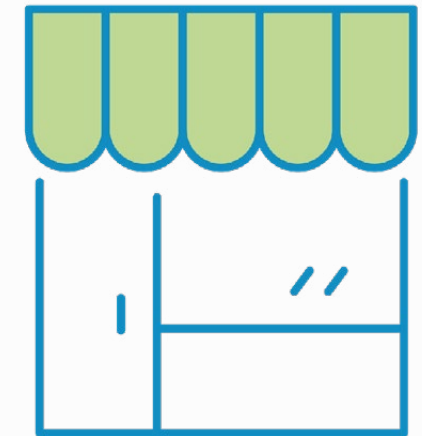
Cool (sealed) roofs reduce internal building temperatures, and can contribute to reducing local urban heat island effect. They can extend the lifespan of your building's rooftop and HVAC equipment, thus potentially saving long-term costs.

## Equipment Requirements:

Cool roof products must have minimum 3-year aged solar reflectance of 0.55 and minimum 3-year aged thermal emittance of 0.75, or minimum 3-year aged solar reflectance index (SRI) of 64. Any reroof or retrofit must use roofing materials that carry Florida Product Approval or Miami-Dade Notice of Acceptance.



If you'd like to review the list of the city's certified vendors, please access our directory: ["WMBE & SLBE Certified Companies Directory"](#)



**Accessory Inclusion Disclaimer:**

Necessary accessories required for the proper installation and operation of eligible retrofit items are included as part of this program. Businesses will not be responsible for purchasing essential components needed to ensure that any item functions as intended. These accessories include, but are not limited to, storm panel mounting tracks, brackets, and fastening hardware, as well as tree stakes, ties, and soil amendments.



Program developed in partnership with [Resilient Cities Catalyst](#)