



Neligh Economic Development Office – 105 E 2nd St. – Neligh, Nebraska 68756 – p: 402-887-4447

Digital Façade Grant Program

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of a strong online presence for local businesses. A strong online presence and digital marketing enable businesses to reach customers from home in Neligh and beyond. For many small business owners, this is not an area of strength. This Neligh Economic Development Office program will provide up to a \$1,500 match to help businesses update their digital presence. The program is intended as a partnership that provides guidance and financial assistance to help businesses increase in-store and online revenue and potentially create additional employment. A committee will review applicants before approval and reimburse expenses with proof of purchase and payment.

Requirements:

- Must have a brick-and-mortar location
- Complete pre-requirement checklist
- Businesses located within city limits

Eligible Expenses:

- Website creation or upgrade
- Purchase and implementation of integrated point-of-sale system
- Creation of an online retail sales outlet
- Digital Marketing
 - Webpage
 - Google My Business
 - Free or paid social media marketing
 - Email capture marketing
 - Text capture marketing
 - Digital content

Businesses must commit to a minimum of two of the following:

- Develop an email platform
- Set up a Facebook or Google Ads account
- Active social media presence
- Set up or update the website that has the following requirements
 - E-Commerce capability
 - Landing page that captures email or cell phone (text) number

Preferences will be given to the following businesses:

- Independent retail and food establishments
- Businesses with employees
- Ability to sell products and services outside the Neligh area
- Current profitable business
- Businesses that have started to develop an online presence

Pre-Requirements:

1. Must have a Google My Business listing with current information
2. Completed digital marketing questionnaire
3. Meet with NEDO staff to provide proof of profit and initial goals conversation

Process:

1. Complete application
2. Complete pre-requirements
3. Submit application
4. Review with the Digital Façade committee
5. City Council approval

Terms:

- The work proposed by the applicant shall be accompanied by at least one bid from an outside source to verify that the costs are within reasonable parameters.
- The business must maintain a brick-and-mortar location within the city limits for at least five years after completion. If the business closes during the five-year grant period, repayment will be due on the remaining prorated balance.
- Businesses sold or transitioned during the five-year grant forgiveness period will be subject to a prorated repayment of the grant award.

Resources:

<https://ducttapemarketing.com/online-presence/>

Digital Façade Grant Application

Applicant: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Brief description of the project: _____

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$_____

Project Start Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

Budget Source and Use of Funds:

Work Element	Business Investment	Façade Match	Total Cost
Website			
Social Media Marketing			
Content Creation			
Point-of Sale System			
Software Subscription			
Other:			
Other:			
Total:			

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

NEDO Office Use Only:

Activity	Date
Application Received	
Initial Meeting Date, Proof of Profit	
Application referred to committee	

Application meeting with committee	
Approval or denial	
Applicant informed	
Final payout	
Check Number and Issue Date	

Digital Marketing Questionnaire

1. What is unique about the products and services you sell?
2. What are you currently doing to promote your business digitally through your website, social media, email, video, photos, online shopping, etc.?
3. What has worked? What has not?
4. What is your ideal target market with eCommerce?
5. What new markets would eCommerce open to you?
6. What other markets would digital marketing improve for you?
7. A general marketing funnel has the following steps: Create Awareness, Generate Interest, Create Desire, and Act. What do you want to accomplish with each of the following:
 - Website
 - Website products/service page
 - Other website opportunities (newsletter, social media following, free consultation, in-depth information, videos, handouts)
 - Social Media
 - Email Marketing
 - Online Shopping

8. Who is your ideal customer?
9. What areas do you feel confident with in digital marketing?
10. What areas do you need help with?
11. What are your goals for improving your digital presence (e.g., increase in revenue, increase newsletter subscribers, capture email addresses, increase the number of sales, increase out-of-area sales, increase in-person sales)?
12. What is your average monthly marketing expense?
13. What percentage would you be willing to invest in digital marketing?
14. What percentage are you interested in to boost your digital presence?
 - _____ Create an online point-of-sale system
 - _____ Create or update website
 - _____ Social Media creation or expansion campaign
 - _____ Prep work to sell and ship online sales
 - _____ Create email marketing campaign
 - _____ Start or expand a newsletter
 - _____ Create content (photos, audio, video)