

# Morris Restaurant Incentive Program



The City of Morris has been actively working to implement the recommendations in the Enhance Downtown Morris Master Plan since it was adopted in 2020. The plan is based on extensive community input; one of the most requested items was for new downtown dining options.

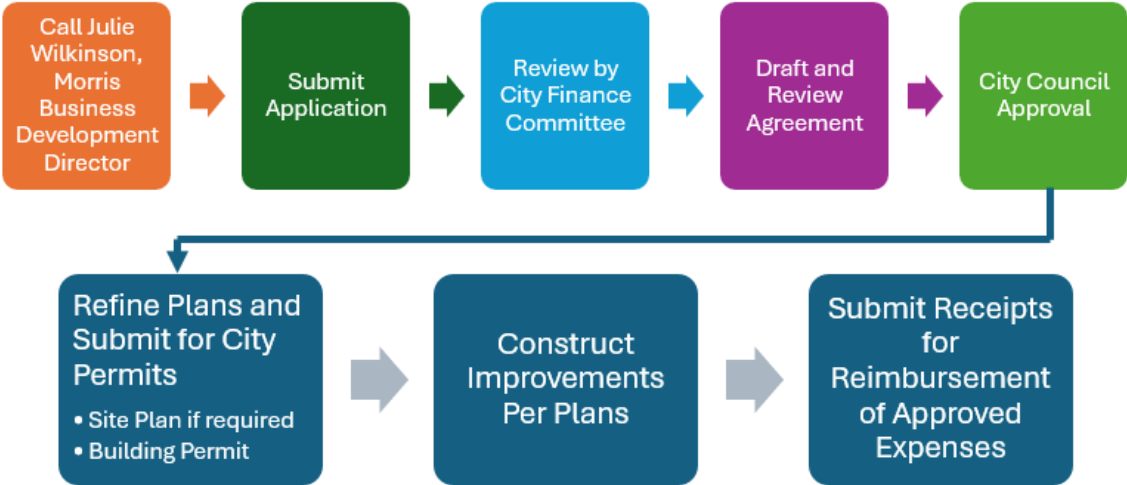
While several new restaurants have opened, city officials recognize the unique challenges and costs associated with opening a new restaurant. The Morris Restaurant Incentive Program is designed to partner with restaurateurs in locating new full-service and limited-service food and beverage businesses in Morris’s downtown historic district.

### Where do the City’s funds come from and how can they be used?

The City will utilize Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to fund the grant program, so all projects must be within the TIF district (including most of downtown) and expenses must be TIF eligible. TIF eligible expenses are permanent improvements such as façade enhancements, sprinkler and hood/ventilation systems, or structural improvements such as building kitchen in a space without one. The grant is forgiven so long as the business remains operational for the period defined in the business agreement.

### Is the program flexible?

Yes. Each building and project is unique, so the program is designed to allow for flexibility. Grants will require a match from the business (usually at least 50%), and funding will generally be done on a reimbursement basis. The typical process for applying for and utilizing the Restaurant Incentive Program is outlined below.



For more information on the program, please contact Julie Wilkinson, City of Morris Business Development Director at (815) 941-3685 or [jwilkinson@morrisil.org](mailto:jwilkinson@morrisil.org)