

Small Business Task Force Minutes:

- **Date/Time:** August 19, 2025, 5:32–6:32 PM
- **Chair:** Rebecca Reckers
- **In Attendance:** Mayor Jessica Fette; Council Members: Rebecca Reckers, Chair, Tyson Hermes, Jennifer Jasper-Lucas, Diana Niceley; City Attorney Jack Gatlin; Community Member Nick Eads
- **Next Meeting:** October 7, 2025, 5:30 PM

Key Discussion Points:

1. Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from the March 18 meeting approved unanimously.

2. Incentive Programs Review:

- Last year's programs were highly successful, leveraging \$522,000 from \$129,000 spent (4:1 ROI).
- Additional \$20,000 added for a total of \$150,000 for the current fiscal year.
- Strong demand: 14 active submittals totaling \$120,000; \$30,000 still available.
- Goal: have all projects ready by July 1 next year to allow for expansion or new incentives.

3. Private Development Incentives:

- Used to encourage business improvements, expansions, and acquisitions in Erlanger.
- Feedback suggests some incentives (e.g., CAP incentive) may need to be increased to attract larger investments.

4. Demolition Grants:

- Two potential projects: Dairy Queen partial demolition and St. Vincent de Paul property demolition.

5. Review of Other Cities' Incentive Programs:

- Norwood, Newport, Louisville examples considered for structuring Erlanger incentives.

- Emphasis on balancing property tax abatements, payroll tax credits, and new construction incentives.
- Considered 5–10 year incentives with possible extensions; goal is legal feasibility under Kentucky law.

6. Challenges & Considerations:

- Need to navigate Kentucky statutes creatively since the state lacks some local redevelopment tools (like Ohio's revitalization zones).
- Focus on vacant land, commercial and industrial development, and preventing misuse of incentives (e.g., data centers or non-profits avoiding taxes).
- Ensure zoning and moral clauses are applied appropriately.

7. Next Steps / Legislative Action:

- Jack Gatlin to draft potential legislation or policy framework for incentives, reflecting task force discussions and legal considerations.
- Discussion planned for October 7 meeting before council consideration.

Adjournment:

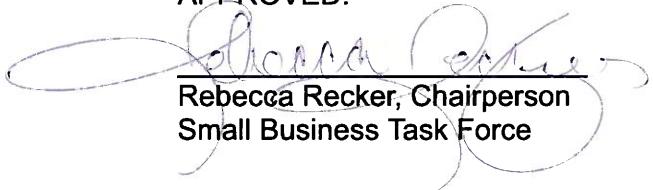
- Motion to adjourn: Diana Niceley; Second: Jennifer Jasper-Lucas. All approved at 6:32 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

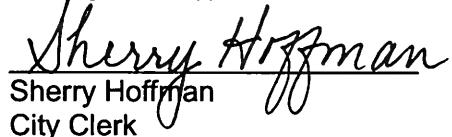


Mark Collier
City Administrator

APPROVED:


Rebecca Recker, Chairperson
Small Business Task Force

ATTESTED BY:


Sherry Hoffman
City Clerk



505 Commonwealth Avenue Erlanger, KY 859-727-2525

Memo

To:	Small Business Task Force
From:	Mark Collier, CAO
Date:	10/21/2025
Re:	FY2025–2026 Incentive Program Update

Program Overview

The City of Erlanger's Small Business Incentive Program continues to drive visible reinvestment and corridor improvement. Since FY2021, the City has reimbursed **\$453,095.98**, catalyzing more than **\$1,709,083.08** in private investment across the community.

Top-Line Trends

- **FY2026 Appropriation:** \$150,000
- **Spent to Date:** \$97,917
- **Pending Requests with Dollars Spent to date:** \$145,750
- **Remaining Balance for FY 25/26:** \$4,250
- **Businesses Supported This FY:** 14 (plus one pending)
- **Average FY2026 Award:** \$8,160
- **Private-to-Public Leverage Ratio (since 2021):** 3.8 : 1

Fiscal Year Trends

- **Consistent Demand:** The program is again **on pace to exhaust its funding** before fiscal year-end.
- **Corridor Focus:** Majority of investments concentrated along **Dixie Highway and Erlanger Road**, supporting corridor beautification and reinvestment.
- **Steady Growth:** Annual participation and award totals have trended upward since FY2023.

Visual Summary

Reimbursements Over Time (FY2019–FY2026)

(Line chart displayed)

Shows consistent program growth and increasing utilization.

FY2026 Incentive Utilization

(Pie chart displayed)

- **65%** of funds reimbursed
- **35%** remaining

Key Takeaways

- The program continues to demonstrate **strong ROI** and **visible corridor impact**.
- Funding is likely to be **fully obligated again this fiscal year**.
- Staff recommends the Task Force **evaluate expanding FY2027 funding** or establishing a **reserve or tiered award system** to sustain demand.

FY2026 Incentive Program Status

