



GROUND  BOUNDLESS

## Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant Program FY25-26 Award List and Project Summaries

Twenty-three businesses were selected for the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (FY 25-26) grant opportunity. Awardee project list and project summaries are listed below. Funding decisions are final.

### Award List

Applicant Name	District	Award
Dress Your Soul	1	\$10,000
Fred Clark Insurance	1	\$10,000
Orion Properties, LLC	1	\$10,000
Paradise Cove Lodge	1	\$10,000
Boron Food Market	2	\$10,000
Caveman Cavey's Pizza, LLC	2	\$10,000
Highland Lodge	2	\$10,000
Juliana Campos Villanueva	2	\$10,000
JC WattenBarger & Sons	3	\$10,000
Kern River Family Mortuary	3	\$7,500
NJY, LLC	3	\$10,000
Delameter Family LP	3	\$6,250
TJM Distribution, Inc.	3	\$6,250
CarKing Dealership, LLC	4	\$10,000
Gabby's Grill & Café	4	\$10,000
Lamont Auto Repair	4	\$10,000
Somani Holdings, LLC	4	\$6,400
Willow Ranch Restaurant	4	\$3,600
Fast Stop Center	5	\$5,000
Gill Mart	5	\$10,000
Lifestyle Nutrition	5	\$10,000
Tacos El Karni	5	\$10,000
Your Drug Store	5	\$5,000

## Project Summaries

---

**Supervisor District:** 1

**Applicant:** *Dress Your Soul*  
**Location:** 109 Piute Dr, Kernville, CA 93238  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

### Project Description

*Dress Your Soul*, founded in 2013, is a vibrant Kernville boutique and community hub offering clothing, accessories, and local art while also hosting fashion shows, holiday celebrations, and community events that showcase regional talent. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant Program, the business will complete three site enhancements: a 10-foot mural of Kernville’s flora and fauna created with the Kern Valley Art Association to serve as a community “selfie station,” a handcrafted wood-and-stone sign with professional dark-sky-compliant lighting to replace its vinyl banner and honor the area’s mining heritage, and siding restoration to protect and preserve the building’s historic character. These improvements will be completed within six months, blending beautification with heritage preservation to create a welcoming focal point for residents and visitors and contribute to the revitalization of Kernville’s commercial district.

**Supervisor District:** 1

**Applicant:** *Fred Clark Insurance*  
**Location:** 6416 Lake Isabella Blvd, Lake Isabella, CA 93240  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

### Project Description

*Fred Clark Insurance Agency* has long served the Kern River Valley by providing trusted insurance and notary services, always with a focus on safety, security, and community. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the business will replace hazardous shake shingles, add drought-tolerant landscaping, and install new exterior lighting to increase visibility and peace of mind. These upgrades will beautify the property, inspire neighboring businesses to invest in their storefronts, and reinforce the site as a welcoming hub for residents, visitors, and community organizations.

**Supervisor District:** 1

**Applicant:** *Orion Properties, LLC*  
**Location:** 3864 Lake Isabella Blvd, Bodfish, CA 93205  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

### Project Description

*Orion Rose Properties, LLC*, a property management company specializing in short-term lodging, parking, and special events, is undertaking a series of site improvements at the historic Bodfish Flume House. Plans include creating a natural decomposed granite and pebble stone walkway with native river stone borders, installing native plant beds with automatic irrigation to attract local birds, and refreshing the deteriorated parking lot with new paint, repairs, and removal of outdated structures. Additional enhancements include re-capping the original rock wall, adding new signage, and extending landscaping to improve customer appeal. These shovel-ready projects build on significant renovations already completed at the property and are designed to revitalize the area by supporting tourism, creating a welcoming environment for visitors, and providing improved facilities for lodging and events in the Lake Isabella/Bodfish community.

**Supervisor District:** 1

**Applicant:** *Paradise Cove Lodge*  
**Location:** 10700 HWY 178, Lake Isabella, CA 93240  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Paradise Cove Enterprises, LLC* operates a 10-unit motel and full-service dining establishment in Lake Isabella, offering overnight lodging, a 110-seat dining room, and an 80-person lounge that serves both locals and visitors. With a long-standing presence in the Kern River Valley, the business supports tourism, community events, and local economic activity. To enhance safety, visibility, and curb appeal, Paradise Cove plans to install security cameras, add lighting to its roadside sign, repair and resurface the property entrance, and install new building signage to highlight its restaurant. These shovel-ready improvements will be completed within six months and are designed to improve guest safety, increase visibility from Highway 178, and strengthen the property’s role as a community gathering place and tourism anchor. By investing in these upgrades, Paradise Cove is helping to revitalize Lake Isabella’s commercial corridor, boost tourism, and provide a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

**Supervisor District:** 2

**Applicant:** *Boron Food Market*  
**Location:** 27037 Twenty Mule Team Rd, Boron, CA 93516  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

As Boron’s only grocery store for nearly 20 years, *Boron Food Mart* has been more than a place to shop—it has been a lifeline for families, providing groceries, sundries, money services, and local jobs. With the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the store will restore and refresh its signage with a professional new design and desert mural, while replacing broken parking lot signs to improve visibility. These improvements will reflect the pride and resilience of the Boron community, making the store more welcoming and helping ensure it continues to serve as a gathering place and essential resource for years to come.

**Supervisor District:** 2

**Applicant:** *Caveman Cavey's Pizza, LLC*  
**Location:** 3620 Mt Pinos Way, Frazier Park, CA 93225  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Caveman Cavey's Pizza, Inc.* has been a cornerstone of the Frazier Park community for more than 33 years, serving not only pizza, pastas, and sandwiches but also providing a place where neighbors come together. Known for “The Cave,” its dedicated meeting space, the restaurant has long opened its doors to local clubs, sports teams, and the Frazier Park Chamber of Commerce, making it a true hub of community life. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, Caveman Cavey’s will replace three aging exterior doors to its entrance, prep area, and meeting room—improvements that will increase accessibility, energy efficiency, and security. These upgrades will help create a safer, more welcoming environment for families and community groups while ensuring the restaurant remains a trusted gathering place that brings people together and strengthens the spirit of Frazier Park.

**Supervisor District:** 2

**Applicant:** *Highland Lodge*  
**Location:** 9350 S Union Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93307  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Highland Lodge* has been part of Bakersfield’s story since 1978, offering travelers, workers, and families a comfortable and affordable place to stay for nearly five decades. As one of the city’s longstanding locally owned motels, it has welcomed generations of guests and contributed to the vitality of the surrounding neighborhood. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, Highland Lodge will install a new perimeter fence and modern security camera system—upgrades that will honor its legacy while preparing it for the future. These improvements will enhance safety, accessibility, and curb appeal, creating a more secure and welcoming environment for guests and helping to strengthen the surrounding commercial corridor. By investing in the Lodge’s upkeep, this project ensures that a historic piece of Bakersfield’s hospitality industry continues to serve the community and visitors for years to come.

**Supervisor District:** 2

**Applicant:** *Juliana Campos Villanueva*  
**Location:** 605 S 10th St, Taft, CA 93268  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Juliana Campos Villanueva*, new owner of the long-vacant commercial property at 605 S. 10th Street, will use Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant funds to revitalize and secure the site through exterior painting, replacement of broken windows and doors, new gutters, signage, and installation of modern safety features including lighting, smart locks, and security cameras. These upgrades will transform a neglected and boarded-up storefront into an attractive, functional, and welcoming space that is ready for a new tenant. By improving curb appeal, deterring vandalism, and enhancing community safety, the project will help reactivate the property, support local business growth, and contribute to the economic vitality of the surrounding commercial corridor.

**Supervisor District:** 3

**Applicant:** *JC WattenBarger & Sons*  
**Location:** 1616 N Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*JC Wattenbarger & Sons Inc.*, a family-owned business proudly serving the community for over 89 years, provides homeowners, professionals, commercial clients, and DIYers with a wide selection of building materials, hardware, paint, plumbing, and lawn and garden supplies, along with expert customer service. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the company will install new storefront security cameras to protect employees and customers while deterring theft and vandalism, as well as reconstruct and restripe its parking lot to include ADA-compliant handicap spaces and an automated handicap door opener for easier access. These improvements will create a safer, more welcoming environment for customers, particularly seniors and those with limited mobility, while reinforcing the company’s long-standing commitment to serving the community with quality products and service in a secure and accessible setting.

**Supervisor District:** 3

**Applicant:** *Kern River Family Mortuary*  
**Location:** 1900 N Chester Ave Ste B, Bakersfield, CA 93308  
**Award:** \$7,500  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*Kern River Family Mortuary* is a full-service funeral home dedicated to honoring every life with dignity, respect, and personal attention, offering traditional and personalized services, cremation and burial options, and celebrant-led tributes. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the mortuary will restore its 50' x 60' parking lot and replace a vandalized front window, projects that will improve safety, accessibility, security, and curb appeal. Partnering with local small businesses The Asphalt Doctor and American Glass, these upgrades will create a more welcoming environment for families, enhance the appearance of the property, and contribute to the revitalization of the surrounding commercial district by supporting local vendors, increasing community pride, and encouraging more visitors to the area.

**Supervisor District:** 3

**Applicant:** *NJY, LLC*  
**Location:** 108 N Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93308  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*NJY, LLC*, a locally owned business providing postal services, mailbox rentals, and computer and printing solutions, will use Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant funds to complete a series of exterior upgrades that enhance safety, visibility, and curb appeal. Planned improvements include exterior painting, upgraded lighting, new signage, installation of security lighting, and replacement of exterior doors. These enhancements will modernize the property's façade, create a safer and more welcoming environment for customers, and contribute to revitalizing the surrounding commercial district. By strengthening its role as a community anchor, NJY LLC will attract new customers, support local students with discounted printing services, and help stimulate economic activity and community pride in one of Kern County's most disadvantaged areas.

**Supervisor District:** 3

**Applicant:** *Delameter Family LP*  
**Location:** 200 China Grade Loop, Bakersfield, CA 93308  
**Award:** \$6,250  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Delameter Family LP*, established over 20 years ago, operates a 25,000-square-foot rental property that is 50% owner-occupied, with the remaining space leased to four long-term tenants, including a physical therapy office, a barbershop, an air conditioning service company, and an equipment rental business. The proposed project involves exterior façade improvements to upgrade the existing illuminated pole sign by converting it to energy-efficient LED lighting and replacing the outdated electronic messaging component. These enhancements will increase visibility, improve curb appeal, and contribute to the overall revitalization of the commercial district.

**Supervisor District:** 3

**Applicant:** *TJM Distribution, Inc.*  
**Location:** 3639 Alken St, Bakersfield, CA 93308  
**Award:** \$6,250  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*TJM Distribution, Inc.*, a family-owned business proudly serving Kern County’s oil and gas industry since 1988, has built its reputation on reliability, expertise, and strong customer relationships. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the company will resurface and stripe the asphalt in front of its main building and replace the gravel in its storage yard, creating a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming environment for employees, delivery drivers, and customers alike. These improvements not only enhance the appearance and functionality of the facility but also reflect TJM’s commitment to investing in the community it has called home for nearly four decades. By modernizing its property and ensuring a professional and accessible space, TJM strengthens its ability to serve local energy producers, supports good jobs, and demonstrates the pride and resilience of a family-owned business dedicated to Kern County’s future.

**Supervisor District:** 4

**Applicant:** *CarKing Dealership, LLC*  
**Location:** 10901 Weedpatch Hwy, Lamont, CA 93241  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*CarKing Dealership, LLC* is a family-owned used car dealership in Lamont dedicated to helping local residents find reliable vehicles with financing and credit options tailored to their needs. In addition to auto sales, the business also provides tax preparation services, making it a trusted one-stop resource for the community. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, CarKing plans to repair and resurface its asphalt lot, install a new awning, and replace damaged doors and windows. These upgrades will make the dealership more welcoming, safe, and professional, improving the customer experience while strengthening trust with both new and returning clients. By enhancing visibility, accessibility, and curb appeal, the project will help attract more customers, increase walk-in traffic, and support the long-term growth of the business as a vital service provider in Lamont.

**Supervisor District:** 4

**Applicant:** *Gabby's Grill & Café*  
**Location:** 21172 Highway 46, Lost Hills, CA 93249  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Gabby's Grill & Café*, a fast-casual restaurant in Lost Hills and sister establishment to our family’s original business celebrating 40 years of service, brings authentic Mexican cuisine with a California-inspired twist alongside classic American favorites. To better serve both locals and the many travelers passing through Highway 46, we plan to install a professionally designed, illuminated pole sign that will provide much-needed visibility and draw customers to our location. Currently relying on temporary flags and banners, we see this permanent sign as a long-term investment that will enhance our branding, strengthen our presence, and create a more vibrant, welcoming commercial district. By attracting new visitors, supporting neighboring businesses, and encouraging economic activity, this project will help us grow, create jobs, and continue our family’s tradition of serving the community for generations to come.

**Supervisor District:** 4

**Applicant:** *Lamont Auto Repair*  
**Location:** 9804 Main St, Lamont, CA 93241  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Lamont Auto Repair* is a trusted full-service shop serving Lamont and the surrounding community with quality diagnostic, maintenance, and mechanical services for both domestic and foreign vehicles. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the business will complete a series of exterior upgrades including installation of energy-efficient LED wall pack lighting, replacement of the front door and single-pane windows with modern, secure, energy-saving models, and the addition of a wrought iron perimeter fence, illuminated business sign, LED security lights, and a camera system. These improvements will modernize the appearance of the storefront, improve safety and visibility for customers during early morning and evening visits, and create a more professional and welcoming presence along Main Street. By investing in curb appeal and security, Lamont Auto Repair is not only strengthening its own business but also helping to uplift the commercial corridor, encourage customer confidence, and demonstrate that small businesses in Lamont are thriving, safe, and worth supporting.

**Supervisor District:** 4

**Applicant:** *Somani Holdings, LLC*  
**Location:** 8939 Panama Rd, Lamont, CA 93241  
**Award:** \$6,400  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*Somani Holdings, LLC* will use Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant funds to install a durable, weather-resistant enclosure over the existing gated garbage area at its property on Panama Road in Lamont. This project will transform an unsightly and frequently misused space into a secure, sanitary, and visually appealing area that prevents unauthorized dumping, deters pests, and protects bins from the elements. Built with reinforced steel, a protective roof, and security features, the upgrade will improve safety and cleanliness for residents, customers, and neighboring businesses. By addressing waste management challenges and enhancing the property's appearance, the project will strengthen community pride, support local business activity, and contribute to the overall revitalization of the Lamont commercial district

**Supervisor District:** 4

**Applicant:** *Willow Ranch Restaurant*  
**Location:** 27770 Lagoon Dr, Buttonwillow, CA 93206  
**Award:** \$3,600  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*Willow Ranch Restaurant*, a beloved family-owned BBQ destination in Buttonwillow for locals, travelers, and I-5 freeway visitors alike, will use Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant funds to restore and improve its parking lot through patching, sealing, and restriping. Known for serving hearty breakfasts, lunches, and dinners in a welcoming atmosphere, Willow Ranch has been a staple in the community and a favorite stop for travelers for many years. These improvements will enhance the restaurant's exterior appearance, create a cleaner and safer environment for guests, and make the Buttonwillow exit more attractive to visitors—helping to draw more customers to the restaurant while supporting surrounding businesses and strengthening the local economy.

**Supervisor District:** 5

**Applicant:** *Fast Stop Center*  
**Location:** 1700 Niles St, Bakersfield, CA 93305  
**Award:** \$5,000  
**Project Type:** Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Fast Stop Center*, a small strip mall serving the community with groceries, a convenience store, a hair salon, and food services, will use Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant funds to revitalize its exterior through fresh façade painting, graffiti removal, re-striping of the parking lot, landscaping upgrades, and improved security for its three business suites. Located in the heart of a working-class neighborhood, the center provides affordable, everyday services that residents rely on, from haircuts to fresh, budget-friendly food. These improvements will not only enhance safety, accessibility, and curb appeal but also foster community pride, attract more foot traffic, and create a more welcoming, walkable hub for local families. By investing in this project, Fast Stop Center is strengthening its role as a trusted neighborhood resource and contributing to the broader revitalization of the surrounding commercial district.

**Supervisor District:** 5

**Applicant:** *Gill Mart*  
**Location:** 390 Bernard St, Bakersfield, CA 93305  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Exterior Façade Improvement

**Project Description**

*Gill Mart*, a longtime neighborhood general merchandise store on Bernard Street, has been a gathering place for families, students, and neighbors since its early days when it was known as the “small Walmart” of the community. With memories of kids stopping by after school for candy and families receiving a helping hand when times were tough, the property has always been rooted in service and compassion. Today, with support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, the owners plan to repave and restripe the front and side parking lot to make it safe, ADA-compliant, and welcoming once again. This investment will not only improve safety for the many neighbors and schoolchildren who walk across the lot each day but also restore pride in the property, attract new customers, and inspire further revitalization along Bernard Street. By making these improvements, Gill Mart hopes to once again be a place where the community feels at home and create opportunities for nearby small businesses and future tenants to thrive.

**Supervisor District:** 5

**Applicant:** *Lifestyle Nutrition*  
**Location:** 1807 Flower St, Bakersfield, CA 93305  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*Lifestyle Nutrition* serves Herbalife shakes, a full range of health supplements, and protein donuts, all with the goal of providing healthy, delicious alternatives that improve our community’s access to nutritious food and promote better lifestyle choices. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, we plan to replace our entrance door, add protective coverings to our windows, repaint the exterior of our building, install a new sign, and add a security camera system. These upgrades will make our storefront safer, more attractive, and more welcoming for the community we serve. As a nutrition store in a disadvantaged neighborhood, we are committed to offering affordable, healthy meal options and supplements to residents who often have limited access to such

products. By improving the safety, appearance, and visibility of our store, we can attract new customers, retain existing ones, and create a more inviting environment that supports health, wellness, and community pride. These improvements will help us grow, encourage more foot traffic, and strengthen our ability to continue serving as a local resource for healthy living.

**Supervisor District:** 5

**Applicant:** *Tacos El Karni*  
**Location:** 2760 S Union Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93307  
**Award:** \$10,000  
**Project Type:** Site Enhancement

**Project Description**

*Tacos El Karni*, a family-owned taquería on South Union Avenue in East Bakersfield, has been serving the community since 2018 with tacos, burritos, BBQ, and its well-loved weekend carnitas. More than a restaurant, it has become a community anchor—donating meals to the local Homeless Center, supporting Guadalupe Church, and participating in high school football events. Despite challenges in the neighborhood, including high poverty and unemployment, the business has remained deeply committed to its customers and community. With support from the Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant, Tacos El Karni plans to install a new cooling system, reconstruct its parking lot with added safety barriers, upgrade security features, and modernize signage to showcase its growing menu. These improvements will make the restaurant safer, more comfortable, and more visible while contributing to the revitalization of the South Union Avenue corridor. By investing in its facility, Tacos El Karni is helping to strengthen the neighborhood and inspire pride and activity throughout the district.

**Supervisor District:** 5

**Applicant:** *Your Drug Store*  
**Location:** 2303 Niles Point, Bakersfield, CA 93306  
**Award:** \$5,000  
**Project Type:** Security Improvement

**Project Description**

*Your Drug Store*, a family-owned pharmacy serving East Bakersfield since 1978, has been a trusted provider of health and wellness services for more than 40 years. As part of its commitment to the community, the business will use Kern Biz Façade Improvement Grant funds to install roll-up window coverings, a reinforced entry door, and motion-activated lighting to improve safety for customers, staff, and neighboring businesses. These upgrades will reduce the risk of theft and vandalism, safeguard pharmaceutical supplies, and create a more welcoming environment for residents who rely on the pharmacy for essential health services. In an area facing homelessness and economic challenges, such improvements will not only protect the business but also strengthen the stability and vitality of the surrounding commercial corridor. By investing in security and curb appeal, Your Drug Store is reinforcing its role as a community anchor, ensuring it can continue to provide personalized care, wellness counseling, and reliable pharmacy services to East Bakersfield for generations to come.