



Business Advancement Program

Application Open December 1, 2025 - January 31, 2026
WWW.ROCKFORDIL.GOV/BUSINESSADVANCEMENTPROGRAM

Program Overview

- 5-year forgivable loan for appropriate projects that advance business operations leading to new job creation
- The program covers 50% of the project cost with a 1:1 match up to \$25,000
- Program funding provided by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to support development activities by expanding economic opportunities
- This program will award up to \$125,000 in total funding

Eligible Businesses

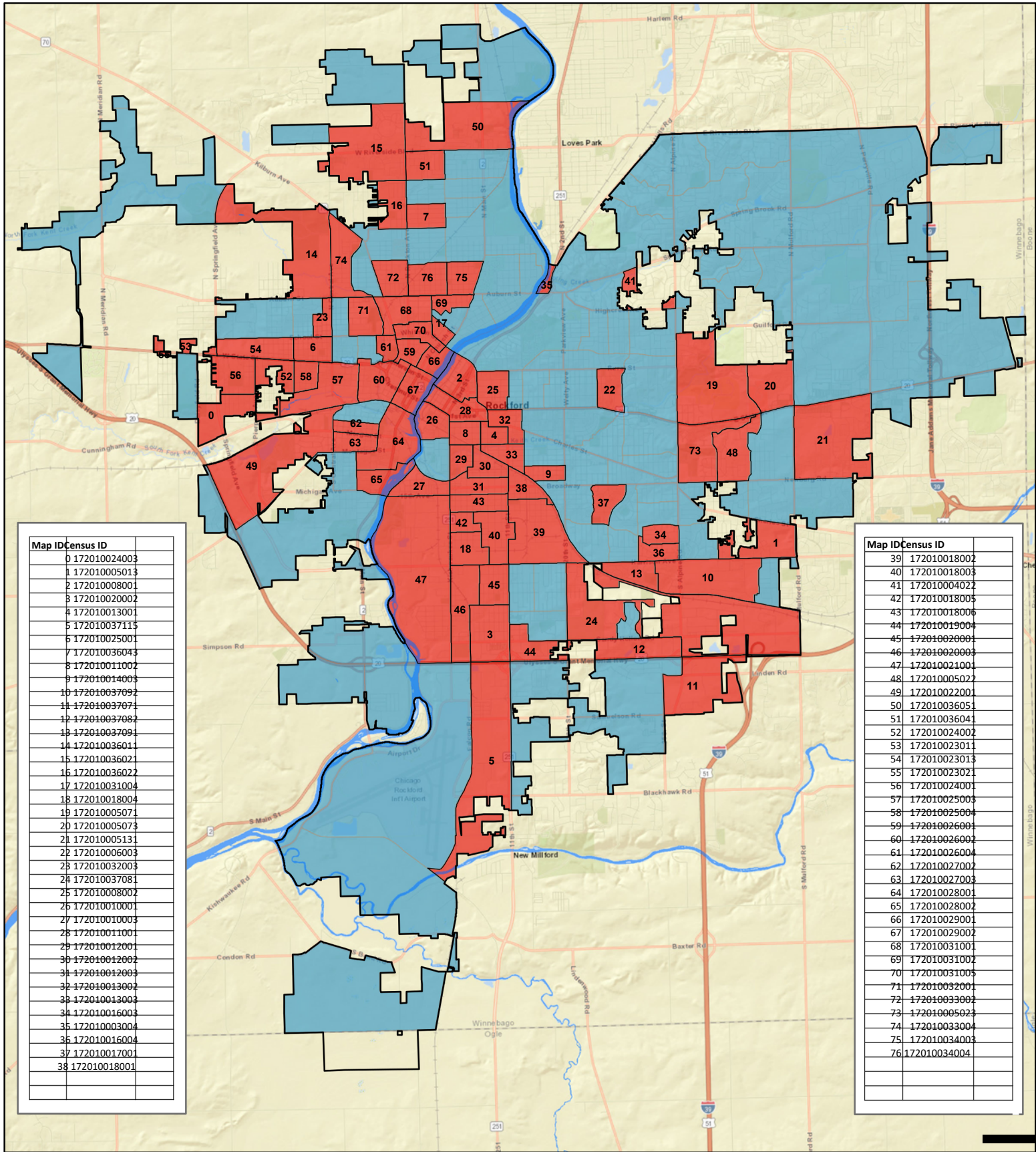
- For-profit businesses legally established and operating within the City of Rockford municipal boundaries
- Business is located in a property zoned Commercial or Industrial
- Businesses established by Nov. 1, 2025 documented through registration by the State or County
- Businesses registered with the official U.S. Government System for Award Management (SAM.gov) with an "Active" status
- Business must be located in a program eligible area

Eligible Projects

- Equipment purchases
- Operating expenses association with business growth (inventory, rent, etc.)
- Non-construction projects (upon approval by the Economic Development team)

*Eligible projects should enhance employment opportunities and create at least one new full-time equivalent job position





Business Advancement Loan Program

Program Eligible Areas

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