

Small Business Community Relief Fund



PURPOSE: The Small Business Community Relief Fund assists Philadelphia small business owners suffering as a result of recent damage to their store fronts. The purpose of this non-profit is to utilize the collective expertise of the glazing industry to serve affected communities by providing skilled glaziers and qualified glazing contractors to repair retail storefronts, windows, and doors.



PROBLEM: As a result of recent events, damage was sustained in the commercial areas of Center City, North Philadelphia, Germantown, Kensington, and West Philadelphia. This damage to storefronts came immediately on the heels of the severe restrictions levied on businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These two events occurring together can, and have, forced the closure of businesses on which many Philadelphians rely. If boarded up storefronts and vacant spaces are allowed to remain, the vitality of the entire City will undoubtedly be impacted.



SOLUTION: The Small Business Community Relief Fund will provide repair to the storefronts of qualified “mom and pop” Philadelphia-based businesses until either all of the businesses have been serviced, or funding is exhausted. It is our goal to help these small, but mighty, economic engines continue to serve their communities, and alleviate the added concern of how to come up with resources for these unanticipated repairs.



PROCESS: Needs will be assessed via an application which will be evaluated by volunteers familiar with the materials and labor needed to return storefronts to working order. We will use volunteer glazing contractors from the Architectural Glass & Metal Association (AGMA) to assess damage, take measurements, provide a plan for repair, and oversee the installation or repair itself. The organization will use a combination of funds and donated materials to cover the cost of material. All work will be performed by glaziers of Glaziers Local Union 252, members of IUPAT District Council 21.



OUTCOME: In the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection, small businesses are integral to the communities they serve. The Small Business Community Relief fund has access to the appropriate volunteers and we seek to use our expertise to do what we can to ensure small businesses can continue to grow and thrive despite recent setbacks.