

Gearing up businesses

# Retail business accessibility program (PAAC)





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# Financial support for universal accessibility

This program was designed to ensure a better quality of life for all citizens. The PAAC enables eligible businesses to upgrade their built environment in order to meet the barrier-free design standards set out in the Québec Construction Code or the regulations in force.

The PAAC provides financial assistance to eligible businesses of the urban agglomeration of Montreal in order to enable them to provide universally accessible premises to their clients with reduced mobility.

## Objectives

This program aims to:

- Upgrade commercial buildings to meet barrier-free design standards, in accordance with current regulations pertaining to universal accessibility
- Yield direct and positive economic benefits for business owners who stand to gain additional clientele
- Enhance the social and economic role of citizens with reduced mobility
- Offer an inclusive living environment for all citizens

## Eligibility

To receive financial assistance under this program, the applicant must:

- Be the tenant or owner of a building **used for commercial activities**
- Plan to carry out work intended to make access to the building and its amenities compliant with the barrier-free design standards set out in the Québec Construction Code or the regulations in force

## Eligible work

The following work aimed at correcting or reducing obstacles hindering the entrances and exits of commercial buildings, as well as improving indoor circulation and access to washrooms is eligible:

- Replacement of a door providing access to the building from the street and to the commercial space
- Installation of an electric door opener providing access to the building from the street and to the commercial space
- Installation of a beveled plan
- Installation of a ramp, elevator or lift platform
- Levelling of the floors and widening of doorways and changing rooms
- Work that facilitates access for dedicated washroom facilities
- Installation of adapted bathrooms

## Financial assistance

The program offers a subsidy equal to 75% of the cost of eligible work, up to a maximum of \$10,000, paid once the work is completed.

## Filing an application

**Fill out the program application form** and provide the required documents before December 31, 2020.

The deadline to file an eligibility application will be December 31, 2020.

## Renovation work

Once eligibility is confirmed, the applicant must:

- Obtain the permits required to carry out their work from their borough or municipality
- Hire a licensed contractor in conformity with the standards of the Régie du bâtiment du Québec (RBQ)
- Start eligible work within 6 months following the date shown on the notice of eligibility
- Complete the eligible work within 12 months following the date shown on the notice of eligibility

For further information regarding our financial assistance programs for business owners, entrepreneurs or investors, go to:

**[ville.montreal.qc.ca/business](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/business)**