



Vibrancy Improvement Incentive Grant Program

All applications must be pre-approved BEFORE any work can begin. Work done prior to approval is not eligible for a grant; all work should comply with the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

Funding is limited and is on a first-come, first serve basis.

The following items are eligible for matching grant funds:

Up to \$1,000 in matching grants per façade for general façade improvements.

Up to \$750 in matching grants per sign, for new & unique signage.

Up to \$2,000 in matching grants per façade for comprehensive renovations.

All funding is handled on a first-come, first serve basis and grant amounts are dependent on the amount of funding.

The following guidelines should be followed by property owners, tenants, contractors, or repairman involved in exterior improvements or rehabilitation to buildings in the downtown area. They will be used by the DSDC Design Committee in approving the Vibrancy Improvement Incentive Grant for renovation requests for projects in the downtown area. The applications are reviewed by the DSDC Design Committee and awarded on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility

1. Any property owner or tenant of a commercial building located within the Downtown Municipal Service Tax District (MSD).
2. Tenant must submit owner's written permission for desired improvements with application.
3. Grants are available for any façade or building side, which faces a public right-of-way or is otherwise visible to the general public.

Design Guidelines

1. The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties will be used as guidelines in making façade improvements if you are working on a tax credit rehab. The Downtown Statesville Design Guidelines will be used as guidelines in making all other types of façade improvements.
2. Plans shall respect and reflect the architectural integrity of the entire building and streetscape.
3. Renovations must conform to the City of Statesville's Zoning Ordinance and the building codes required by Iredell County and the state of North Carolina.

Funding Guidelines

1. After application submission to DSDC Executive Director, staff will coordinate a joint meeting with applicant and City Planning Department to discuss improvement or rehabilitation to determine a timeline for review and approval process. The grant is contingent upon final design approval from the City's Design Review Committee and City Planner.
2. Applicants must use the grant funds only for expenses reasonable associated with exterior rehabilitation or maintenance of the building as described in the application. Applicant cannot receive any funds for "sweat equity" on work performed personally.
3. Every effort should be made to complete the project within ninety (90) working days and if substantial progress toward the completion of the project cannot be shown after this period, the DSDC could revoke approval after thirty (30) working days' written notice.

All work on the project must be approved before grant or loan funds are awarded.

Grants will be made on the following basis:

1. General Improvements

- a. Grants up to \$1000.00 can be eligible for 50-50 match *per facade*, for painting and or general improvements only.
- b. General improvements will be any work which involves regular upkeep measures and will include the following: painting, cleaning awnings, wood trim repair, removal of paint, repair of stucco, etc. (General improvements do not entail structural changes or changes to the overall character or historic features of the building)

2. Signage

- a. Grants up to \$750.00 will be eligible for a 50-50 match for design, fabrication and installation of Dimensional Pedestrian Type Hanging Signage, Dimensional Wall Signage, Dimensional Prismatic Lettering, and creative sandwich board sign designs.
- b. This grant cannot be used for window lettering, awnings, vinyl, flat wall signs. The Downtown Statesville office has examples of signage which can be emailed.

3. Renovation (Rehabilitation or Construction)

- a. Grants will be eligible for up to a 50-50 match with a minimum DSDC participation of \$200 and a maximum DSDC participation of \$2,000.
- b. Rehabilitation and Construction will be any work, which involves any structural or physical change to the building itself. For example: replacement of windows/doors, addition of windows/doors, removal of metal siding, pointing of bricks, replacement of exterior fixtures, addition of exterior fixtures, etc.
- c. Rehabilitation grants can only be awarded on a three (3) year basis for each building.

The program is administered by the Downtown Statesville Development Corporation and all questions relating to the grant Program should be directed to the DSDC office at 704-878-3436 or via email at mpierce@statesvillenc.net.

For more information and/or to view the Vibrancy Grant application please visit:

<https://www.downtownstatesville.com/business-resources/>