

BALTIMORE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM



2012 Grant Information

The Baltimore Downtown Restoration Committee is excited to announce a collaborative effort to assist commercial property owners in the Downtown Business Districts in financing permanent, visible façade improvements. The Baltimore Downtown Restoration Committee, an independent, non-profit organization whose purpose is to stimulate downtown economic development; and is assisted by the Village of Baltimore with a portion of the funds for the grant program each year.

Re-investment in the downtown benefits residents by providing better and closer shopping, a healthy local economy, and stable or improved home values. Business owners benefit by increased sales, improved image, and an increased value of business. The local village government benefits by an increased economic growth, positive perception of the community, and increased interest by other businesses. No one loses. Statistics show that re-investing \$1.00 in the downtown will generate more than \$28.00 back to the community.

All improvements must have an owner match of one times the grant requested, will be awarded (e.g., if the owner has improvement expense of \$1,000 for the project, they may request \$500.00 in grant reimbursement). ***This is a reimbursement grant***; all expenses must be paid and work must be completed prior to payment. Applications must be fully completed, and no work can commence until the application is approved. Once the work is completed and bills are submitted, payment will be made.

Approved projects include, but are not limited to, paint, new windows, siding, awnings, transoms, and sidewalk repairs.

Maximum grants of:

\$1000 for repairs and improvements to the siding, replacement of windows and doors, painting, sidewalks and window boxes

\$750.00 for permanent signage for the establishment

\$500 for landscaping and screening including sod, trees, shrubs and planters

\$150 for alternate signage (IE: mobile or hanging signage visible from the street)

Rules and Regulations

1. Applications must be submitted by the property owner, even if a lessee is having the work performed.
2. To be eligible, work to be performed must be permanent and visible from the street. The one exception is moveable signage (Max grant \$150)
3. The maximum grant reimbursement for a project will be determined by the work completed, even if the project costs more than two times the reimbursement.
4. To be eligible, the property must be located within the Downtown Business Districts and be used for business (not residential). A mixed use building (business on the first floor and residential on the second floor) is eligible.
5. A property owner may apply in more than one application period within a year; with a maximum rolling calendar year award of \$2000.
6. All work must be completed prior to requesting reimbursement.
7. The Baltimore Downtown Restoration Committee reserves the right to make all decisions related to the implementation of this grant program. Awards will be based on the organization's determination of which projects will most affect the district.