

Façade Improvement Grant Program

Town of New Castle, NY
Ivy Pool, Town Supervisor
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Façade Improvement Grant Program: Overview

- **What it is?**

- A Façade Grant Improvement Program is an incentive program to encourage property owners and businesses to improve the exterior appearance of their buildings and storefronts. The program would provide a financial incentives (e.g., matching grant), and design assistance.

- **Purpose Statement:**

- The Façade Grant Improvement Program will assist property and business owners in rehabilitating the commercial façades of their properties for the purpose of creating a positive visual impact, stimulating economic activity, and complementing the Town's infrastructure and streetscape improvements. Better aesthetics increase property values, improve the marketability of space within the buildings, and draw business and residents to the area.

Benefits

- Improved aesthetics will help attract new businesses and shoppers to the Chappaqua hamlet.
- Since the inception of the downtown Infrastructure and Streetscape project, merchants and residents have been asking the Town to provide to help local businesses recover from the impacts of the construction.
- Owners/tenants of properties and businesses in surrounding areas will be motivated to make improvements

Funding

- Phase I: 50% matching grant up to a max grant of \$1,000.
- Phase II: 50% matching grant up to a max grant of \$7,500
 - Begins after the adoption of a Form-Based Zoning Code for the Chappaqua Hamlet
- Grant applications will be processed a first-come, first-serve basis with a maximum Town expenditure of \$75,000 for both phases.
- Grants will be issued on a reimbursement basis following completion of the project after the applicant provides the Town with documentation of eligible project expenditures
- One application per property or per tenant, per phase.

Program Term

- Three years
- Option to renew the program for two additional years, unless the Town spends the maximum \$75,000 prior to such date.
- On an annual basis, and before the implementation of Phase II, the Town Board will review the program to evaluate success and determine if any changes are required.

Eligible Projects

- New signage
- Exterior lighting
- Painting to highlight the buildings' historic character
- Façade repair or reconstruction
- Cleaning brick masonry and façade
- New cornices for the roof gables
- New awnings or canopies
- Window or door replacement
- Rear entrance improvements, if open for use by the general public

Benchmarking

Location	Population	Grant Amount
Danbury, CT	85,246	50% matching grant for up to \$10,000.
Albany, NY	98,251	80% funding for new buildings up to \$10,000; 50% match for existing buildings up to \$10,000, up to \$15,000 for corner lots. Total of \$325,000 in Round 1. Three rounds of funding have been approved. Round 3 was \$100,000
Livingston County, NY	63,799	50% matching grant for up to \$5,000.
Utica, NY	60,635	75% funding up to maximum grant of \$22,500
Norwalk, CT	89,500	50% matching grant up to \$50,000 max. \$160,000 total program costs.
Madison, CT	18,114	50% match up to \$10,000, up to \$20,000 for corner lots. \$1,285,200 awarded to date