

Clawson
Downtown
Grant Program
Description

A PROGRAM OF THE
CLAWSON DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Clawson Downtown Grant Program

The purpose of the Downtown Grant Program is to encourage economic investment and revitalization to the commercial buildings in the DDA district and historic downtown of Clawson, Michigan. The Downtown Grant Program is designed to target low cost, physical improvements to buildings by the upgrading of awnings, signage, doors, paint or windows.

PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES

Program Summary

1. The DDA provides an initial \$6,000 in the Downtown Grant Program for FY 2002/2003. The DDA will annually budget and allocate funding for the program.
2. Grants will not exceed \$1,500 per item (awning, sign, door, paint, landscaping or windows) with a total not to exceed two grants per building/business.
3. Reimbursement will not exceed 50% of purchase and installation expense associated with the installation or replacement of the item.
4. The design, colors, style, and placement of the awning, sign, door, windows and paint must be consistent with the DDA plans and policies in addition to the city ordinances.
5. Application and approval for reimbursement must be made to the DDA before improvement is undertaken.
6. The Downtown Grant Program is limited to commercial properties.
7. The Downtown Grant Program is limited to the improvements made within the DDA district and facing Main Street, 14 Mile or a publicly owned parking lot.
8. All building and site improvements are subject to all reviews and approvals required by city codes and ordinances.
9. Generally, the DDA will consider a grant application within six weeks of receipt of a completed application. Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting when the application is being considered.

Program Eligibility

- Grants are restricted to commercial properties and businesses within the DDA district.
 - The Downtown Grant Program is limited to the improvements made within the DDA district and facing Main, 14 Mile or a publicly owned parking lot.
 - Grants can be given to either the Property/Building owner or the Lessee/Business owner; whichever has financed the improvement. Lessee/Business owners must obtain Property/Building owner authorization.
 - Awnings are defined for a grant reimbursement as either:
 1. a single awning across the entire storefront at the street level, an awning over the door entrance or several street level awnings,
 2. several awnings across second story windows.
 - Windows are defined for a grant reimbursement as either :
 1. a single window across the entire storefront at the street level, or windows at street level,
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2. several windows across second story.

- Reimbursements for awnings and windows are limited to two grants, one (or more) awnings/windows at street level and one (or more) at the second story level.
- A sign is the element that identifies the business. It can be an element attached to the building or lettering applied to the building. Each sign is considered one grant application.
- Landscaping is defined as trees, turf, shrubbery, flowers, planters, ground cover arranged in a fashion to enhance the building/business. Landscaping must be visible from 14 Mile, Main Street or a publicly owned parking lot. A grant for landscaping is for a collection of improvements strategically arranged to visually enhance the setting either in front, back or side of the business.
- Each building/business is limited to two grants, which can be any combination of items.
- Application and approval for reimbursement must be made to the DDA before improvement is undertaken
- Projects approved by the DDA will be reimbursed upon total completion and installation of the improvement.
- It is the responsibility of the grant applicant to notify the DDA upon completion of the installation for the processing of payment.
- Improvements must be complete within one year of the approval. Projects not complete within a year must request an extension or approval will automatically be revoked.
- Building/Business is defined by either an address or owner. It is the intent of the program to be eligible to all businesses. Large buildings can house several businesses. Often addresses can differentiate the different businesses. Each different business with a different address is eligible. However, if the building is not occupied and the building owner is applying for the grant, it is limited to 2 grants per building not each store front.
- Grant reimbursement is determined at 1/2 the purchase and installation of the item(s) in a single approved grant not to exceed \$1,500.