

Downtown Enhancement Grant



The Downtown Enhancement Grant (DEG) program is designed to foster innovative approaches to downtown development activities, which support and promote community partnerships, projects and programs to revitalize the downtown area. The goal of these projects are to improve the quality of life and increase private investment and employment opportunities in Indiana Main Street (IMS) communities. The Downtown Enhancement Grant priorities are directed by OCRA's strategic plan and the National Main Street Four-Point Approach. This program will work in conjunction with the Indiana Main Street Program and the overall goals and strategies for the Main Street revitalization efforts across the state.

The objectives are to improve the quality of life and increase opportunities for private investment and spur economic development in IMS communities.

Eligible Applicants

- Current Indiana Main Street communities that have not received DEG funds in the last three years.
- Submitted an approved Community Assessment and have been found to be an eligible organization.
- Someone from the organization must have attended an OCRA conference or OCRA Main Street Exchange in the past two years.
- Applicant must be in good standing with the Indiana Secretary of State and the Indiana Department of Revenue.
- Must have a partnership of at least one of the following: local units of government, economic development organizations, convention and visitor bureaus, Indiana Main Street organizations, public or private schools, or community foundations.

Project Eligibility

- Qualifying projects are ones which promote economic development in the downtown areas and will enhance the quality of life in the community. Ideal projects could include, but are not limited to: façade renovations or rehabilitations, creation of wayfinding signage, streetscape/landscaping, mural restoration and other more permanent initiatives as they relate to the DEG program purpose.



Match Requirements

- 1:1.5 local match minimum is required. This can be broken down as a 1:1 local cash match with an additional 50% coming from in-kind donations or cash. Philanthropic foundations, especially community foundations, are strongly encouraged to participate and provide cash match.
- Application components including youth engagement and a higher local match are looked upon favorably.
- Federal and other state funds may not be used as a local match.

Grant Request Amount

- \$5,000 to \$10,000

Additional Information

- Eligible applicants for the Downtown Enhancement Grant are current participating Main Street Organizations. Partnerships between other entities within the community and the Main Street organization are encouraged but the Main Street organization must be the lead applicant in order to apply.
- All projects must promote economic development in the downtown areas and enhance the quality of life in the community. The project must be part of the Main Street group's overall strategy and located within the defined downtown area.

Contact your OCRA Community Liaison with questions at www.in.gov/ocra

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