

Downtown Housing Grant Program

Application Scoring Criteria

Project Appropriateness [25 points maximum]

Proposed project will use appropriate rehabilitation and design practices and techniques, fit into pertinent community goals and logically explain reason for project.

A strong application will:

- Clearly describe the overall project.
- Include a detailed scope of work for the project that also outlines the specific areas of the project that will be funded with the grant.
- Thoroughly explain the significance of the building.
- Demonstrate appropriate treatments of historic elements of the structure.
- Show that the project clearly fits into development plans for the city/downtown.
- Describe green/sustainable elements of the rehabilitation project.

Project Funding/Partnerships [25 points maximum]

Proposed project will exhibit ample and reasonable funding from several sources. Project partners are identified and defined.

A strong application will:

- Explain what financial/feasibility analysis has been completed to justify the project.
- Show solid estimates of proposed work based on project plans.
- Show financial support from local entities such as property owner and city.
- If in-kind support is used, specifically show sources matched up with specific element of project. All in-kind support is legitimate.
- Show a cash and/or in-kind local match of greater than 25% of the total project cost.
- Complete financial form in its entirety.
- List any other financial incentives/programs that are being used on the project.
- Clearly define property owner's involvement and interest in getting project done.
- Clearly defines other individual or organizational partnerships to get project done.
- Demonstrate that project financials are secured and the project is prepared to begin construction at the time of grant award.

Project impact on housing in the community/downtown district [25 points maximum]

Project will support a direct impact on the growth of upper story housing opportunities in downtown.

A strong application will:

- Clearly describe the proposed project and how it addresses/supports downtown housing and how many housing units will be created and/or improved.
- Describe how this project was selected to apply for this grant.
- Describe the need for new/improved housing in the community.
- Create new or improved downtown housing units.

Project impact on community/downtown district [20 points maximum]

Proposed project will exhibit strong impact on the community and the downtown. Project will be a stimulant for economic development, improve the appearance of the site and community and perhaps the safety of its immediate locale. The impact of the award is critical to project success.

A strong application will:

- Clearly describe the impact of the proposed project on the downtown district.
- Describe how project will spur other investment in the downtown district.
- Involve an extremely important (perhaps landmark) building.

- Propose a project that addresses a comprehensive improvement to the building or space.
- Clearly show what economic development will occur as a result of the project.
- Make use of a property that is largely underutilized.
- Involve a building in an extremely important location such as the heart of the downtown, an entrance to the downtown, etc.

Population Size [5 points maximum]

Points will be determined by population size using the ranking table below.

- Under 1,500 5 points
- 1,501-5,000 4 points
- 5,001-10,000 3 points
- 10,001-20,000 2 points
- 20,001-30,000 1 points

Main Street Iowa District [5 points maximum]

Projects located in Main Street Iowa districts with nationally accredited Main Street program will receive an additional 5 points.

Scores:

Project Appropriateness (0-25 Points)	_____
Project Impact on Housing (0-25 Points)	_____
Project Funding/Partnerships (0-25 Points)	_____
Project Impact on District (0-20 Points)	_____
Population Size (0-5 Points)	_____
Main Street Iowa District (5 Points)	_____
Total Score	_____