



2021 Main Street Challenge Grant Application

Applications for 2021 Main Street Iowa Challenge Grants are now available. Main Street Challenge Grants are for bricks and mortar rehabilitation of buildings within a designated Main Street Iowa district. New construction within the designated district is also eligible for funding. Through an appropriation from the Iowa legislature, Main Street Iowa will be awarding a total of \$1,000,000 in grants of up to \$100,000. Grants are available **ONLY** to designated Main Street Iowa programs across the State of Iowa. The Uptown Marion Main Street organization may apply for a state challenge grant on behalf of **ONE project**. Eligible projects must be within the Uptown District boundary.

Plans will be considered locally on intent to follow preservation standards, architectural significance, need, developers/owner's commitment to complete the project, uniqueness, and impact on the district and community.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- **Rehabilitation and/or restoration** of significant commercial properties within the designated Main Street district. This can include, but is not limited to:
 - Façade improvements (Front, rear and side)
 - Upper floor interior rehabilitation
 - Structural repairs/improvements
 - Code compliance
 - First floor interior rehabilitation
 - Energy efficiency/sustainability improvements
 - Single specific phase of a large rehab. The project must have a specific defined focus and clearly identifiable scope of work including start/end dates and milestones for completion.
- **Compatible New Construction** including building additions with first floor commercial and upper floor(s) commercial or residential within the designated Main Street district. Razing of an existing structure to allow for new construction will not be considered an eligible use of funds.
- **Multiple properties** committed to a mutually agreed upon improvement or series of improvements located within the designated Main Street district. All multiple properties applications must be connected by a common need or issue that defines the scope/type of proposed project. For instance, a series of rear entrances visible from a parking lot; the removal of inappropriate slipcovers/siding materials and façade restoration for a number of buildings, multiple upper floor rehabilitations, etc. Multiple properties are not required to be contiguous. However, close physical proximity does improve the project impact within the district. Multiple property projects may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Installation of an elevator and common hallway linking several buildings;
 - Sprinkling of multiple properties with a central master control room.
 - Handicapped accessibility improvements serving multiple buildings/storefronts like a common ramp or lift.
 - Energy efficiency/sustainability upgrades like green roofs for multiple buildings, geo-thermal well fields, etc.
 - Improvements to the facades (front or rear) of a highly visible group or block of buildings;
 - Upper floor rehabilitation for a number of properties.



EXPENDITURES/MATCH:

Projects may NOT commence until contracts have been signed around mid-December and must be completed within 2 years of award. No previous expenditures of any kind will be considered as suitable cash match for a project. This statement applies to both new applicants and additional submissions for phased projects. A dollar for dollar (1:1) CASH match is required for ALL projects. In kind contributions, while important, cannot be used to meet match requirements for any project. The match requirement may include necessary project “soft” costs for professional service i.e. architectural or engineering directly related to the project/property.

EACH structure included as part of a MULTIPLE PROPERTIES application must meet the individual minimum project investment threshold (ex.\$25,000 grant/\$50,000 minimum total investment.) For example this applies to multiple façade improvements, upper floor rehabs or energy efficiency/sustainability improvements. It does not apply if the project is a large, single investment that impacts a number of properties like a common elevator or fire suppression system.

NOTE: Previous Grant Beneficiaries (projects/buildings) who are completing a large, phased project may apply for additional Main Street Iowa Challenge Grant funding so long as the scope of work authorized in the previous award is complete and all funds dispersed.

REHAB/CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS:

Plans must meet all local code requirements and comply with the defined Iowa Green Streets criteria of IEDA. See <https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Community/green> for Iowa Green Streets criteria background and additional criteria resource links.

Note: If a property is listed or deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or part of a National Register District, the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation.htm> must be followed.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The form blow is a pre-application process to select a project that will be submitted on behalf of Uptown Marion Main Street. Uptown is looking for projects with the highest likelihood of being awarded grant funds at the state level. Interested parties should complete the attached pre-application, including a summary of the project, and email or hand deliver to Brooke Prouty, (brooke@marioncc.org) no later than **12:00 p.m., Monday August 16th, 2021**. The project selected by the Uptown Advisors with input from the Uptown Design Review Committee will be notified Thursday August 19th, 2021. Uptown Staff will then work with the selected nominee to submit a full proposal and application to the state.

State applications must be submitted by Uptown Marion by **Monday, September 9th, 2021**. Due to the short turnaround time, it is highly encouraged that applicants are familiar with the state application and are working towards having all data compiled when completing this pre-application. (uptownmarion.com/msichallengegrantscoringcriteria/)

The Uptown Marion Main Street project nomination is not guaranteed funding.



2021 Main Street Challenge Grant Uptown Pre-Application

Due by noon Monday August 16th, 2021

Submit via email to brooke@marioncc.org

or in person at 1070 7th Ave, Marion, IA 52302

For more space, copy and paste into a word document or complete online at
www.tinyurl.com/uptownapplication

Applicant Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Project Type (select one from the categories described above)

- Rehabilitation and/or restoration of significant commercial properties
- Compatible New Construction including building additions with first floor commercial and upper floor(s) commercial or residential
- Multiple properties committed to a mutually agreed upon improvement or series of improvements

Address(es) of the Property/Building Site:

Architectural Significance:

Project Description (500 words or less):

Is there a need for this project in the market and how will it improve the Uptown Economy (200 words or less)?

Challenge Grant Amount Requested:

Estimated Project Costs:

What are your other sources of funding for this project?

Have you previously applied for a challenge grant? Yes No

Have you previously been awarded a challenge grant? Yes No

Is this project a phased project? Yes No

Do you have knowledge of the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation or Iowa Green Streets Criteria? Yes No

Do you have staff with experience in grant writing? Yes No

How would not getting this grant effect your project?

Please include any additional attachments or renderings of your project to be considered.