

Purpose

The City of Rosemount recognizes the important role that a vibrant, authentic downtown plays in the City's vitality. Strategic Planning efforts of the Rosemount Port Authority identify Downtown Revitalization as an important objective. A well-maintained and attractive public realm reflects community pride and contributes to urban vitality. The Port Authority and City Staff has long discussed establishing a fund to assist building owners with improvements to façade and landscaping that enhances the quality and appeal of Downtown Rosemount. The Façade Improvement Grant Program aims to strengthen, revitalize and sustain the Downtown by encouraging and assisting property owners to make improvements to buildings within the district. By providing a financial incentive, the program will stimulate private investment and support stabilized and increased property values. The Port Authority is funding this one-year pilot program and review the program outcomes before making adjustments as necessary in subsequent years.

Eligibility

The pilot program district will be synonymous with the area identified in the Development Framework for Downtown Rosemount, described the area of Rosemount that lies along Highway 3 (South Robert Trail) between 143rd Street and County Road 42. Building owners and commercial tenants (with property owner's approval) of commercial properties within the project area can apply for a downtown grant. For-profit and not-for-profit entities are eligible to apply, as long as the grant is used for a commercial building. Additionally, applicant business must be operational for one or more years.

Eligible Uses

Grant dollars may be used for improvements to the exterior of buildings including brick replacement and repair, window and door replacement/repair, installation of new windows and glass doors, awnings and signs, exterior steps/entrances, landscaping (trees and shrubs only), lighting and related permanent improvements.

Grant Amount

Grant funds must be matched 1:1 with private dollars. Grant amounts may range from \$1,000 up to \$5,000 (\$2,000-\$10,000+ total project cost) per property.

Number of Grants

The City will offer downtown grants totaling up to \$20,000 annually. Each applicant is eligible for one grant per calendar year. Grants will be awarded on a first come first serve basis. If eligible grant requests exceed the total funding capacity, the Port Authority will consider additional funding.

Payments

This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must complete all improvements and pay for the total project cost or total private match, prior to receiving a reimbursement check from the City. Applicants shall submit a copy of the invoice for the grant related improvement to the City.

Design Standards and Process

All projects must meet the criteria identified in the City Code under 11-4-11: DT DOWNTOWN DISTRICT. Applicants will work with staff to determine if grant eligible activities can proceed with administrative review or require Planning Commission review on a case by case basis.

The City of Rosemount requires permits for most of the eligible improvements listed above. For questions about permits, please visit the Building Permit and Inspections Department at <https://ci.rosemount.mn.us/315/Applications-Permits-and-Inspections>.

Reporting

Businesses will be required to provide “before and after” photos of the project to the City.