

Danville Business Alliance

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 22, 2009
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Façade Grant Program

The Danville Business Alliance (DBA), a non-profit organization, announces the Danville Main Street Program and several local financial institutions are collaborating to offer funding for façade improvements throughout the designated downtown program area. The area largely includes what is already zoned as the central business district, roughly following state route 54, U.S. route 11, Ferry Street, and Front Street.

The DBA has obtained funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to assist Danville business and property owners in downtown Danville to finance façade improvements. Funds are provided to business and property owners in the form of matching grants, and the DBA will be able to award \$120,000 in grants over the next four years. Grant recipients must match dollar for dollar the amount of money received from the DBA. Funding may be allocated to any one business location for up to 50 percent (50%) of the total project not to exceed total reimbursement of \$5,000 per storefront.

Anyone who owns or leases commercial property in the designated downtown program area is eligible to apply. Commercial tenants may apply with the written approval of the building's owner. Buildings with outstanding code violations are not eligible for this grant. The DBA will distribute information soon to business and property owners in the Main Street district program area about the façade grant program.

Examples of the types of improvements which are eligible under the DBA Façade Grant Program Design Guidelines are signs, awnings, repair and/or restoration of storefront exteriors, and the cost of professional design services.

The DBA Façade Design Committee has developed a comprehensive publication of Design Guidelines to serve as a reference guide. The Design Guidelines strive to offer basic information about physical improvements, which have proven to be effective in the revitalization of other downtown business districts throughout Pennsylvania. In addition, the Design Guidelines establish a set of principles to ensure that improvements are consistent with the scale, character, and history of downtown Danville. These principles stress good property maintenance and preservation of original architectural features and encourage the compatibility of any

replacement architectural elements and building additions. Copies of the Design Guidelines and grant applications are available at the DBA office.

The DBA will review applications, determine eligibility, and approve the buildings to receive assistance. Projects will be evaluated on the basis of quality, design compatibility, and the level of visual and economic impact. If more applications are received than there is money available, grants will be awarded from available funds on a first-come, first-serve basis to eligible applicants. Applicants not funded could re-apply if additional funding should become available.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Jim Wilson, Executive Director, Danville Business Alliance office, 279-4254 or 244-2163, or visit the DBA office at 316 Mill Street in Danville. Normal business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.