

Danville Business Alliance

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Danville Business Alliance
Jim Wilson, Executive Director
(570) 284-4502/4503

Façade Grant Program

For the second year in a row 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 façade grant program has been fully funded for another year by 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 \$30,000 in grants in the next year and a total of \$90,000 over the next three 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.

Last year the façade program awarded eight grants totaling approximately \$28,000, which helped to fund downtown projects with a total cost of approximately \$70,000. Projects included painting and cleaning facades, new awnings, and replacing windows and entry doors. Such improvements will make the business district more inviting for existing as well as new shoppers and businesses, stimulate further improvements in the surrounding, largely residential areas, and preserve the historic character and architecture of downtown Danville.

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.

The DBA Façade Design Committee has developed a comprehensive publication of Design Guidelines to serve as a reference guide. The Design Guidelines 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 can 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, 284-4502/4503 or visit the DBA office at 17 East Mahoning Street in Danville. Normal business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.