

What is the Façade Grant Program?

The program is a financial incentive program to help rehabilitate commercial buildings in Main Street Hanover's Designated District. Main Street Hanover (MSH), in partnership with the Borough of Hanover and the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce, was awarded a grant for a Façade Improvement Program from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development - Keystone Communities Program. This program allows qualified commercial property owners and tenants within the designated district of Main Street Hanover, to be reimbursed for façade improvement projects.

How much money can I get for a single project?

Maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 per commercial property per project is allowed and must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the applicant. For example, the applicant can receive \$5,000 for a project that costs \$10,000. If a project costs \$6,000 they can receive \$3,000. After the project is approved, projects must be paid for by property owner or business tenant at the time the work is completed, and the façade grant funds will come as a reimbursement for that project.

Is there a cost to apply?

There is a \$50 processing fee that must be paid to Main Street Hanover, Inc. upon receipt of the application. It will be reimbursed if the project is not eligible for the grant.

What kinds of projects are eligible for this grant program?

A variety of property improvements, including major maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of storefronts and facades are eligible activities. All eligible activities are subject to approval by the MSH Design Committee. The following list contains some examples of the types of work that are eligible for this grant program. Additional projects can be considered on a case by case basis and are subject for approval by the MSH Design Committee. Projects must follow the Downtown Design Guidelines which are available on the MSH website..

Signage – Maintenance, repair, removal, and replacement in connection with real property improvements.

Awnings – Installation, repair, and maintenance of fabric awnings in connection with real property improvements.

Storefronts – Removal of inappropriate coverings and additions, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of display and transom windows and lighting.

Lighting – External lighting fixtures both for signage and building lighting.

Doors and Upper Story Windows - Maintenance, repairs, replacement, and restoration of window sashes, exterior doors, and installation of storm windows in conjunction with other significant façade improvements.

Painting – Surface preparation, cleaning, painting.

Brick and Stone Masonry – Structural repairs, cleaning, re-pointing and painting.

Architectural Metals – Repair, cleaning, refinishing, painting, duplication, and restoration of exterior building components, e.g. cast iron, pressed tin.

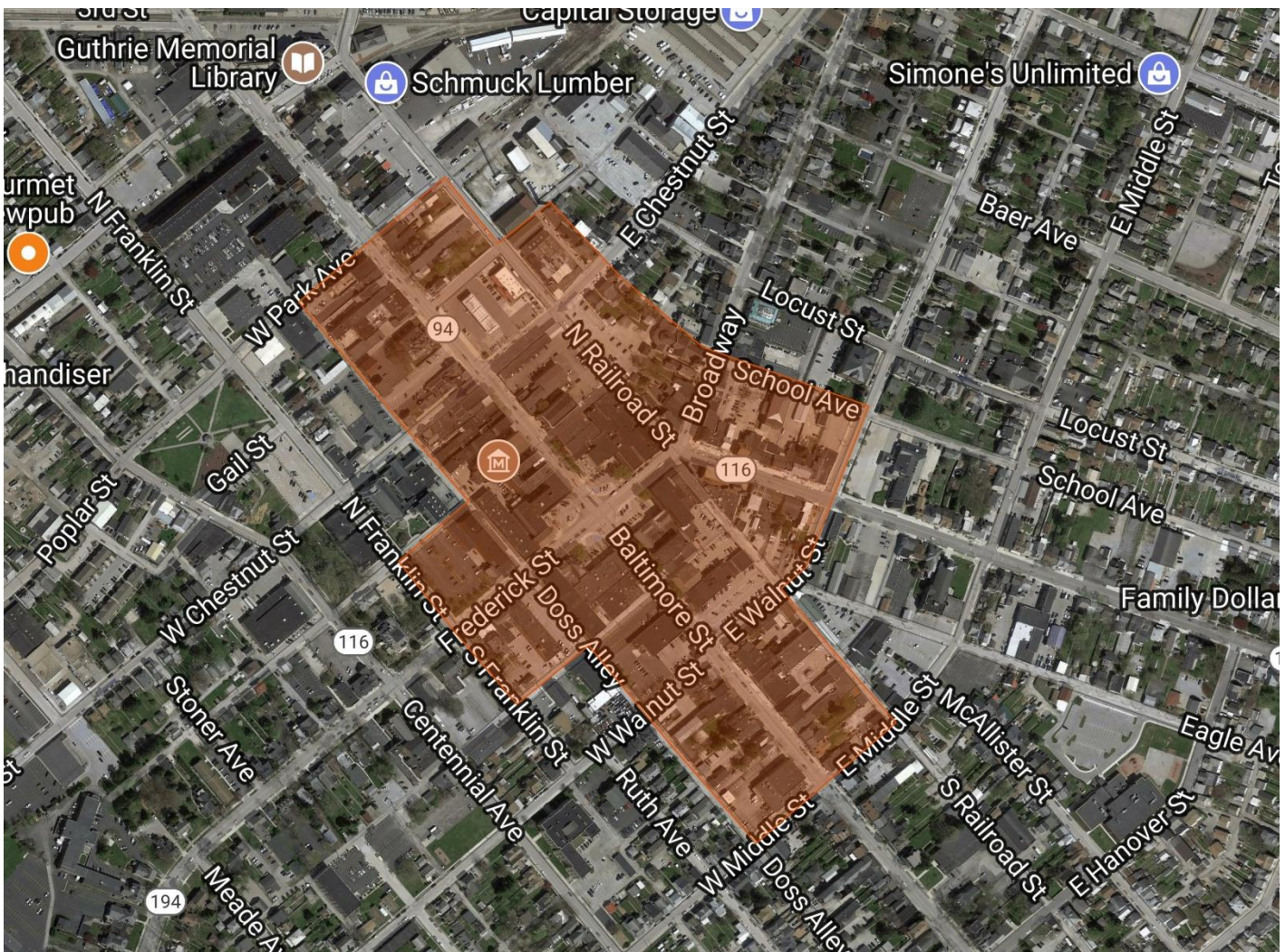
Exterior Woodwork – Maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of sills, windows and doorframes, bulkheads, storefront and roof cornices, window hoods, decorative moldings.

Routine Applicant Maintenance- the applicant may apply to do work him or herself but will only be reimbursed the cost of supplies. Labor will not be reimbursed unless the applicant is a qualified, licensed contractor. The applicant will be required to obtain to estimates for the cost of supplies.

Work done cannot contradict the local building code enforced by the Borough of Hanover. Projects must be a part of the physical structure of the building. Projects cannot include exterior patio seating, sidewalk work, movable elements, etc.

Who is eligible for this grant?

Property owners and business tenants located within the designated area of Main Street Hanover are eligible to receive the grant. That map is below. Properties cannot be under a current municipal code violation.



How do I apply?

Contact Main Street Hanover for the full application packet or download from www.MainStreetHanover.org. Phone: (717) 637-6130 or email: jtrucksess@mainstreethanover.org.

How does my project get final approval for the grant funds? Who reviews the applications?

The MSH Design Committee reviews and approves all projects. They meet the first Thursday of every month. Decisions must be made at the committee meeting and façade grant applicants are encouraged to attend to discuss their project with the committee. The committee follows the state approved design guidelines when making decisions of eligibility.

How long does the approval process take?

Approvals of applications take place during the regularly scheduled MSH Design Committee meetings, which occur monthly. If the applications are complete when submitted, projects can be approved typically during one meeting. If there are questions regarding the project and its scope of work, or the application does not contain all the necessary items when submitted, the process will take longer.

Can I start working on the project after I submit my application?

No, projects that have begun before final approval from the committee will not be eligible for the grant program. Any projects that have already been completed, are not eligible for this grant program.

How do I get the grant money after the project is done?

After the project is completed, the Main Street Hanover manager will complete a final inspection of the work and take photographs of the project. Then the following documentation must be submitted in order for the project to be reimbursed: Completed Final Application, Copy of paid receipts or invoices, and Copy of cancelled check used in payment of invoices. That gets submitted to the State for the reimbursement.

How long does it take for the money to come back to me?

After the final inspection is complete and the documents listed above are received, that project is submitted to the state for reimbursement. The state will take at least 45-60 days to turn around the grant funds, however depending on the volume they're receiving, and any larger governmental issues occurring at the time, it could take much longer. Main Street Hanover will work with the grant applicant to keep them as updated as possible.

Any additional questions can be answered by Main Street Hanover

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