



Hoopeston Municipal Building

City of Hoopeston

301 W. Main St.
Hoopeston, IL 60942
(217) 283-5320
Fax: (217) 283-7965

Hoopeston Illinois Façade Improvement Grants

Administered by The City of Hoopeston

Program Description

The Hoopeston Façade Improvement Grant is a program designed to assist owners of commercial properties in the City of Hoopeston improve the façade appearance of their property.

For the purpose of this program, the term façade includes upper and lower stories of the front of businesses (may include sides of corner buildings, which are visible from the street). This program will work to promote and improve the beauty and image of Hoopeston's commercial properties.

The funding for the program has been made available by the City of Hoopeston, with businesses located in a TIF zone being funded by TIF funds and all other businesses being funded through the budget of the Civic Committee of the City.

The City of Hoopeston will initially designate \$10,000 in TIF funds and \$5,000 in the Civic Budget to fund this program.

The Façade Program will be administered by the Façade Committee. The Mayor will make appointments to this committee with approval by the City Council. The committee may include, but not limited to;

1. One City Council member
2. One City employee
3. Chamber of Commerce Representative
4. Historical Society Representative
5. Two Business owners

The Grant may match up to 50% of qualifying costs , with a maximum reimbursement of \$5000 to a qualifying project. The project will need to obtain committee approval before initiating any work, Following completion of the project, the building owner shall pay all costs of the project then submit paid receipts accompanied by lien waivers from contractors and suppliers , to receive reimbursement of eligible expenses.

Grants will be awarded to those buildings which will provide the greatest visual impact on Hoopeston's Business appearance.

Program funding may be limited and will be dispersed at the discretion of the Committee for projects that meet the qualifying criteria. Grants will be awarded to those projects which best meet the enclosed criteria of improved visual appearance. While Historic Preservation is not a requirement of this program, it is strongly encouraged whenever possible. Applicants who do not receive funding during a budget year may reapply the following year provided the project has not been implemented without committee approval. The owner must match the Program's grant at a one-for-one ratio. There is no bank participation required. Competitive bids or written proposals are required.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, and have expenses reimbursed at the end of the renovation process, a person must :

1. Own a building within the city limits of Hoopeston
2. Must be operating as a business ; defined for this program as any building from which goods or services are being marketed to the public.
3. Follow the application process as specified.
4. The building must be in sound structural condition prior to being considered for funding.
5. Have plans approved by the Hoopeston Façade Committee
6. Complete the renovation process within the designated time frame(begin within 3 months of approval and be completed in 12 months), and complete all renovations as originally approved.

Projects that include improvements from the following list are more likely to be considered for approval. Simply replacing lighting, an awning, or a sign will not meet the desired goals of the program.

Allowable costs that will be reimbursed include(but are not limited to):

- Door and window repair or replacement
- Exterior paint removal or repainting
- Awning installation
- Cornice restoration
- Exterior lighting
- Storefront refurbishment
- Removal of false fronts

The program will not reimburse owner for his or other in-kind labor

Design Review

All applications for proposed façade improvements will be reviewed by the Hoopeston Façade Committee. The committee reserves the right to approve or deny the proposed changes. Any work not approved as eligible by the committee will not be reimbursed. The committee reserves the right to propose changes or additions to the plans as they have been submitted.

Application Process

Only completed application packages will be considered , and grants will be awarded based on the degree in which desired criteria is met. Application packets are available at the Hoopeston Municipal Building located at 301 West Main Street, and accepted throughout the year.

Step one:

Submit completed application to the City Administration Office located at 301 West Main Street.

Step Two:

The Hoopeston Façade Committee will review the application.

Step Three

Within thirty days of committee review, a meeting between the Façade Committee and the property owner will be set. At this meeting the property owner should be prepared to submit a detailed design and cost estimate or bids for the project

Step Four

Façade Committee submits recommendation to City Council for approval

Step Five

If approved the notification will include all aspects of project that qualify for reimbursement through the program. Work must begin within 3 months of approval(unless otherwise approved by the committee), and completed within 12 months to be eligible. Applicant is responsible for obtaining required permits .

Completion and Reimbursement

Upon completion of the project the following are required;

1. A financial summary of the total project expenses
2. Copies of all invoices to be reviewed for reimbursement
3. Waivers of lien from contractors
4. Photographs of building before and after the improvements

Funds will be dispersed only after verification that work has been completed in accordance with the contract. The Hoopeston Façade Committee reserves the right to withhold funding in the event that work is not completed according to the approved application. The Façade Committee will submit certificate of project completion to the City Council for approval of payment