

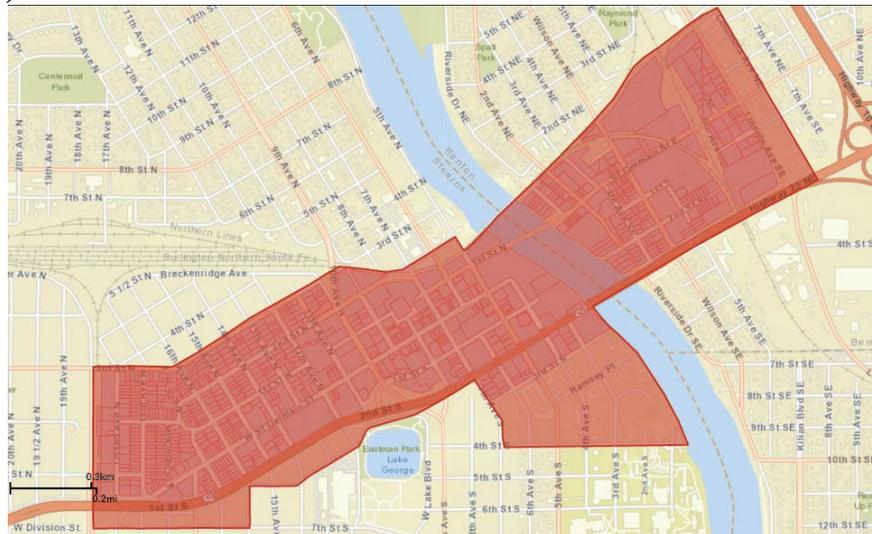
Downtown Exterior Improvement Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

How does the program work?

The St. Cloud Downtown Exterior Improvement Grant Program provides incentives to stimulate external, visible investment in Downtown properties. Property owners and business owners are encouraged to consider improvements that incorporate the surrounding community including but not limited to aesthetics, environment, cultural and historic elements and architecture. The program provides a 50% matching grant for actual design and construction costs up to \$10,000 per property on a pay-for-performance basis. Qualifying projects will require design approval and will be applied for by commercial property owners and/or business tenants (with property owner approval).

Who can apply for grant funding?

Property owners or business tenants (with written approval from property owner) can apply. The property must be located within the St. Cloud Downtown Commercial Corridor (pictured below).



What improvements are eligible for funding?

Funds may be used for design of permanent exterior building improvements, awnings, windows, doors (including front/back door accessibility), brick repair and/or site landscaping resulting in a publicly visible improvement and for actual construction costs related to an approved improvement. Other uses may also be eligible if prior approval is granted by the St. Cloud Economic Development Authority.



What improvements are ineligible for funding?

Signs are not eligible for funding. Other ineligible projects include interior work, temporary landscaping, retroactive projects, etc. Operational or ongoing maintenance expenses (Ex. Roof Replacement) will not be considered. Residential properties are ineligible for this program.

What happens after my application is submitted?

Completed applications will be reviewed monthly by the Economic Development Authority. Preference will be given to projects which positively contribute to downtown revitalization efforts, result in significant visible improvement that would not otherwise be made and that demonstrate a ratio of private to public investment greater than 2:1. If your project is approved, you'll receive a notification from the Economic Development department staff with next steps.

What if my project is not approved?

If a project is rejected, a staff member from the Economic Development department will contact you.

What happens after my project is approved?

After project approval, work on the proposed improvements can begin. All work to be completed is the sole responsibility of the applicant. Any city permits for work will need to be obtained through normal application processes.

What if I need the application in a different language?

Contact an Economic Development staff member ([Cathy](#) or [Lyndsey](#)) who will connect you with a community resource to provide translation services and application assistance.

How long will it take for my application to be reviewed?

Applications will be reviewed by the Economic Development Authority monthly. Applicants will then be notified of the board's decision.

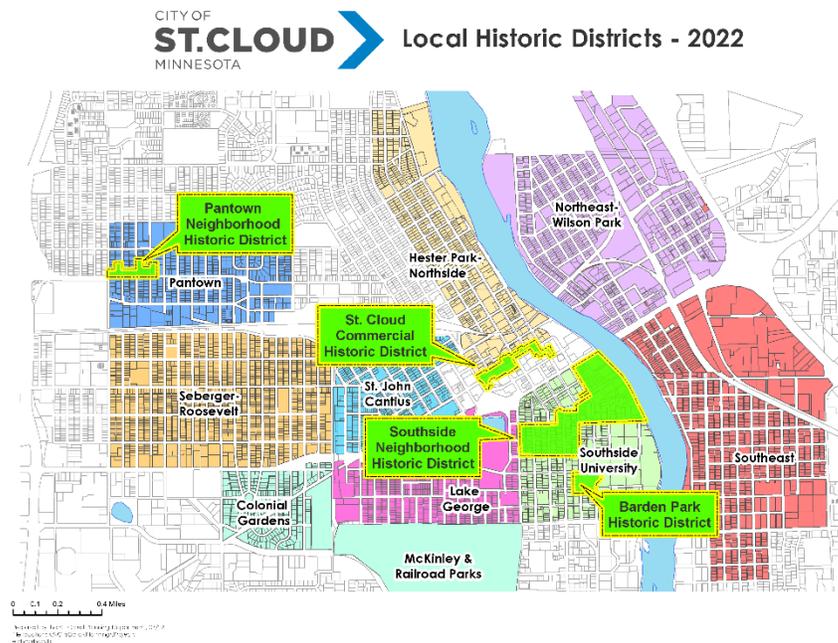
Can I apply for both Grant Programs? (Downtown Exterior Improvement and Main Street Economic Revitalization)

Although property owners/business tenants may apply for both programs, only one grant can be utilized per property address/project. The Downtown Exterior Improvement Grant is specifically for exterior only projects while the Main Street Economic Revitalization Grant

covers a larger scope of projects. Applicants are encouraged to compare the programs and choose the grant that fits their project best.

Are there any other special requirements?

Exterior improvements to properties in the St. Cloud Commercial Historic District (map below) require an alteration permit from the City of St. Cloud’s Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) to ensure consistency with the [St. Cloud Downtown Preservation Design Manual](#). Please contact the City of St. Cloud Planning office at (320) 650-7218 for more information about the alteration permit process.



What if I have more questions?

Contact Us

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