



## Façade Improvement Grant Program Guidelines

[www.richfieldmn.gov/facadegrant](http://www.richfieldmn.gov/facadegrant)



The City of Richfield recognizes the important role that healthy neighborhood business districts like Penn Central play in the City's vitality. The Façade Improvement Grant Program aims to help revitalize and sustain the Penn Central neighborhood business district by encouraging and assisting property owners to make lasting physical improvements to buildings along the corridor.

### **Who can apply for a matching grant?**

The Penn Central business district extends along Penn Avenue between Crosstown Highway 62 and 68th Street (see attached map). Building owners and commercial tenants (with property owner's approval) of commercial properties within the district can apply for a Façade Improvement Grant. For-profit and not-for-profit entities are eligible to apply, as long as the grant is used for a commercial building.

### **How much are the matching grants?**

Grants will pay for 50% of the total project costs, up to a maximum grant amount of \$7,500 per property. Grant funds must be matched 1:1 with private dollars. Owners of multiple properties can apply for separate grants for each property, as long as the cumulative grant amount awarded does not exceed the maximum grant amount. The minimum grant amount is \$1,250 (\$2,500 total project cost).

This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must complete all improvements and pay for the total project cost or total private match, prior to receiving a reimbursement check from the City.

### **What will the matching grant dollars pay for?**

Façade Improvement Grants can pay for a variety of exterior building façade improvements. The work must be visible from a public street. The following improvements are eligible for grants:

- Restoration of exterior finishes and materials
- Masonry repairs and tuckpointing
- Exterior painting or re-siding
- Removal of architecturally inappropriate or incompatible exterior finishes and materials
- Repair or replacement of windows and doors (replacement must be architecturally appropriate)
- Canopy or awning installation or repair
- Repair or replacement of exterior signage, in compliance with Penn Avenue Design Guidelines
- Removal of signage not in compliance with the Penn Avenue Design Guidelines
- Removal of barriers to building access for pedestrians and people with disabilities
- Exterior building or accent lighting (parking lot lighting ineligible)
- Landscaping work done as part of a larger project (up to 25% of total project cost eligible)
- Contracted labor related to any of the above improvements, including design work for improvements that are to be completed (up to 25% of total project cost eligible)

The City of Richfield requires permits for most of the eligible improvements listed above. For questions about permits, please contact the Inspections Division at 612-861-9860 or [www.richfieldmn.gov/inspect](http://www.richfieldmn.gov/inspect)

## **What will the matching grant dollars NOT pay for?**

The following activities are not eligible for matching grants:

- Improvements already in progress or completed prior to contract approval
- Routine maintenance that is not part of an eligible façade improvement project
- Improvements to a building interior, rear, or side not visible from a public street
- Improvements to non-commercial buildings
- Roofing
- HVAC systems, building mechanicals, or security systems
- Fencing (excludes decorative fencing as part of landscaping improvement)
- Parking areas
- Bike parking\*
- Billboards, roof signs, or temporary signs
- Dynamic display or electronic message signs
- Nonconforming signs or awnings, other than to bring them into compliance with the Zoning Code and/or Penn Avenue Design Guidelines
- Purchase or rental of tools and equipment, or for labor performed by the building or business owner, family members, employees, or any other person with a financial interest in the property or business. Grant funds may be used to pay for materials.
- Any other improvement not deemed eligible on the above list

\* Grant funding is available to assist businesses interested in installing bike racks.

More information is available at [richfieldmn.gov/bikeracks](http://richfieldmn.gov/bikeracks)

## **Eligible properties**

Eligible commercial properties are those generally along Penn Avenue between Crosstown Highway 62 and 68th Street. For more information on the program or to request a grant application, please contact Sadie Gannett, Assistant Planner at 612-861-9758 or [sgannett@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:sgannett@richfieldmn.gov)

