

Seneca County Façade Enhancement Program



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Seneca County Façade Enhancement program provides reimbursement grants to assist with the revitalization of exterior facades of commercial buildings in Seneca County, with the exception of those in other façade enhancement program areas, single family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, commercial farm operations and national franchises. Property owners/businesses can apply annually for available funds, but priority will be given to first-time applicants and commercial businesses that are currently in operation. Governmental entities and county employees are not eligible for funding. In 2023, \$50,000 is available for projects in Seneca County. Half of the funding will be designated for projects in the cities of Tiffin and Fostoria and the other half to projects in the rural areas of the county. After six months, both cities and rural areas will be eligible for any remaining funds. A commercial building is defined as a building used for business purposes, such as retail, office, or industrial space.

GRANT DETAILS

The Seneca County Façade Enhancement Grant offers a reimbursement up to 50 percent for expenses related to eligible building improvements, with a maximum match of \$5,000. Funding is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis from application to approval. Incomplete applications will not be accepted, and all work must meet state, county and local zoning and building codes. Applicants are responsible for any permits necessary to have work completed. Eligible applicants must provide two quotes from licensed contractors, defined as contractors with a Tax ID number and the proper licensure documentation. All work must be completed by the contractor that provided the quotes. The county may follow up with contractors to verify work is being done and to verify the authenticity of quotes. Renderings and drawings are not required but are strongly recommended. Work cannot be completed by the applicant and approval expires six months from when the county commissioners approve the application. An extension may be possible with proper documentation of extenuating circumstances causing the delay. Signage projects are permitted. National franchises are generally excluded, with an exception being made for franchise owners who live in Seneca County. The property must be in Seneca County to be eligible. The Façade Enhancement Program Committee will meet on a bi-monthly basis to review project applications. The Seneca Regional Planning Commission will submit a resolution of the committee's recommendations to the commissioners for final approval.

ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Exterior improvements to front façade of eligible commercial building, including awnings, masonry work, painting, exterior window/door restoration/replacement, roof repair/replacement, fire escapes, and other visible exterior improvements
- Front façade includes any façade with identical ornamental architectural details continuing on the side of the building (e.g. upper cornice, facade brick, facing material, stone, ornamental window trim, first floor cornice, storefront display windows)
- Buildings on street corners may be eligible for funding on any part of the building adjacent to a street (excluding alleys)
- Properties that function as one building are eligible for one grant per year, regardless of the number of tax parcel numbers or owners

INELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Interior improvements, operating funds, HVAC repair, plumbing repair, furnishing/equipment, landscaping, exterior improvements that do not meet state, county, local guidelines/codes/requirements, including design standards
- Rental or residential units not eligible

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are available on the Seneca County Commissioners website, and at the commissioners' office, 111 Madison St., Tiffin, OH.
- Completed applications must be submitted to the office, along with project description, cost estimates and all other details requested on the application form.
- Façade Enhancement Program Committee reviews and recommends projects to commissioners for approval
- Approval expires 6 months from when commissioners approve the application during a public board meeting (extensions possible with proper documentation)
- Reimbursement payment released after work is completed, proof of payment is submitted, and work has been inspected

SENECA COUNTY FAÇADE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Completed application must be submitted to:

Seneca County Commissioners Office | 111 Madison St. | Tiffin, Ohio 44883 |
asauber@senecacountyohio.gov

Applicant Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Total Amount of Grant Funding Requested: \$ _____

Total Amount of Private Investment in the Improvements: \$ _____

Describe how the building improvements will be a benefit to you and/or your business:

Describe any investments that you have already made in your building:

Are you currently operating? Explain what sort of products and services you provide:

Any Additional Information:

SENECA COUNTY FAÇADE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Project Description

Please describe the building enhancements planned for this project. Include a detailed description of work to be completed, photos of the existing conditions, a rendering of proposed work (if applicable), two detailed cost estimates from licensed contractors a completed W9 Form from the applicant.