

Borough of Somerville
District Management Corporation
Special Improvement District
2007 FACADE IMPROVEMENT MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

The Borough of Somerville District Management Corporation (DMC) is applying to the Somerset County Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) for funding for matching grants for facade improvements. The purpose of the program is to increase the economic vitality of the community and to increase non-residential tax rates. The FACADE IMPROVEMENT MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM is intended to help property owners/merchants in the Special Improvement District (SID) renovate/restore their building facades and make building improvements to enhance the value of the properties; make the properties more competitive in the regional marketplace; attract additional tenants and customers to downtown; create construction jobs and increase employment; and help ensure the continued economic vitality of downtown Somerville.

ELIGIBILITY

All commercial properties in the Somerville Special Improvement District are eligible. If the applicant is not the owner of the property the applicant must have written authorization from the property owner to perform the proposed improvements. Projects completed prior to January 1, 2007, are not eligible.

TYPES OF IMPROVEMENTS

All significant facade restorations and renovations are eligible, including rear and side facades facing public areas. Minor maintenance projects are not eligible. Other building improvements, such as access/egress to upper levels and necessary structural improvements, may also be considered. However, as one of Somerville's greatest assets is its collection of Victorian period commercial structures, restoration of historic facades will be given priority. INTERIOR TENANT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

FUNDING

The SID Facade Grant Program is a matching grant program. The program will pay up to 50% of the cost of approved projects, however, the award may be less than 50% of the total project cost. The limit of the award will be established on a per project basis. Payment of the award will be made upon receipt of paid invoices and a certificate of occupancy or a finished project inspection by a representative of the Borough of Somerville and/or District Management Corporation.

ALL FUNDING IS DISCRETIONARY. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE PROJECTS THE DMC BELIEVES PROVIDE THE MOST BENEFIT TO THE S.I.D. AND THE BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE. THE DMC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL APPLICATIONS.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Anyone eligible wishing to apply is requested to fill out the enclosed Preliminary Application Form and return it to DMC by **4:00 P.M. Friday, May 18, 2007**. Applications will be reviewed by the Review Committee and a response will be given to the applicant. Projects receiving preliminary approval will then be asked to submit a final application including drawings, photographs, final cost estimates, etc. The use of an architect or professional designer is highly recommended.

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Preliminary Application Form

Name: _____

Name of Business: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Property Address: _____

Property Block - Lot No.:_

Property Owner: _____

Owner's Signature: _____

Application for: Facade restoration Facade renovation
 Other _____

Project Cost Estimate _____ Grant Request _____

RETURN TO: Somerville DMC
c/o: Somerset County Engineering Division
atten.: Richard Close
20 Grove Street
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1262

DUE DATE: **4:00 P.M. Friday, May 18, 2007**

If you have questions or require more information contact **Richard Close** at the above address, or phone at **908-231-7691**, or e-mail at close@co.somerset.nj.us.

Description of the scope of work (use additional sheets if necessary): ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THE PRELIMINARY APPLICATION, PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES MAY BE SUBMITTED AND ARE HELPFUL TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Applicant's signature

Date