



**ALPENA
DOWNTOWN**
Development Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALPENA DDA ANNOUNCES FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

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Alpena, MI - Starting this year, property owners that own residential properties within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) district are able to access funding for façade improvements through the DDA's existing Façade Improvement Grant program. Previously, only properties that were commercial or mixed-use in nature were able to access grant funding through the program.

Properties that are residential in use—single-family homes, multi-family rentals, townhouses, or apartment buildings—are able to apply for grants to cover up to 50% of eligible façade improvement expenses. The DDA's contribution is a maximum of \$10,000 per façade.

Properties can apply for funding in two rounds this year: May 15 and September 15, 2024. The DDA Design & Beautification Committee, made up of business owners, community volunteers, and City staff, reviews applications and recommends grants awards to the DDA Board of Directors.

“This is a tangible benefit to the residential property owners now included in our district,” said DDA Executive Director Anne Gentry. “Alpena City Council and the Alpena County Commissioners both encouraged the DDA to develop a program that would benefit residential property owners. The DDA Board has set aside a separate pool of funds for residential façade grant awards. We are excited to see what kind of applications come forward.”

Residential property owners in the existing DDA district are also able to apply for funding through the program. The DDA gives higher funding consideration to projects that transform the appearance of the façade instead of replacing what is currently there. A full program document and application can be viewed here:

https://www.downtownalpenami.com/uploads/1/2/4/3/124380876/dda_facade_grant_program_updated_february_2024_fillable.pdf

You can view a map of the DDA district here:

https://www.downtownalpenami.com/uploads/1/2/4/3/124380876/dda_map_01022024.pdf

Those interested in applying or learning more about the Façade Improvement Grant program should reach out to the DDA Office by calling 989-356-6422 or emailing anneg@alpena.mi.us