

City of Lawrence
Community Development Department
147 Haverhill Street
Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840

2008 Storefront Improvement Program

Funded by

The City of Lawrence
Community Development Department
Community Development Block Grant Program
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



***Matching Grants
Up To \$40,000 For
Storefront Improvements***

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan
Lawrence, MA

www.cityoflawrence.com

Program Goals

The goals of the Storefront Improvement Program are to work in partnership with the private sector to:

Eliminate and prevent blighted conditions of commercial properties in the designated business areas;

Entice private investment within the City's commercial districts;

Generate additional revitalization by focusing the investment on improvements visible to customers, neighboring merchants, and residents;

Beautify the districts so that they reflect positively on neighboring residential areas; and to

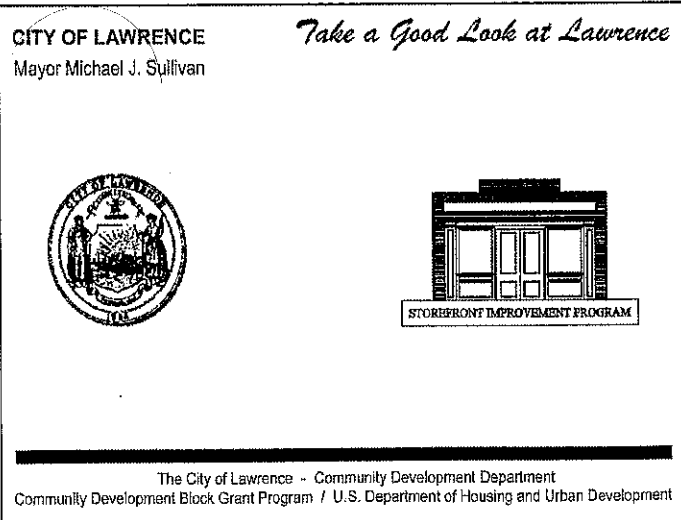
Increase business flow by making the districts and individual businesses more attractive.

75% of construction costs invested by the property or business owner on pre-approved storefronts improvements will be matched, up to \$40,000.

In addition, you will be provided with professional architectural design support (within reason), to plan development, prepare bid documents and assist with grant processing.

Eligible Areas

The **Storefront Improvement Program (SIP)** is part of a comprehensive approach to the City's downtown revitalization. The City of Lawrence has designated program target areas to include businesses on Essex Street and Broadway.



How It Works

Here is the process:

Obtain and submit a completed grant application from the Community Development Department (CDD). We will verify if your project is eligible for funding. If so, the program architectural consultant will set a preliminary design meeting with you to discuss the program and your project.

Based on that meeting, the architect will meet with the Design Review Committee (DRC) for a project review and grant/loan funding recommendation.

Upon DRC approval, the project plans and specifications will be developed by the architect. The architect and CDD will guide your project through every step of the grant program with design, plans and specifications by a registered architect, bidding, contractor selection, inspections, grant/loan payment processing, and project close-out.

At 100% of satisfactory project completion, payment of up to 75% of the project costs will be sent to you.

The grant reimbursement is currently scheduled for 75% of the costs of storefront improvements up to \$40,000. You will be required to verify payment has been paid in full, prior to reimbursement. The applicant will be financially responsible for 25% of project costs and all disciplines beyond the bid scope.

This program is subject to all federal bidding requirements including the Davis-Bacon Act.

Note: A lien will be placed on all approved properties for a duration of ten (10) years, to ensure compliance with contractual agreements for these Federal grant funds.

Requirements

The first step in applying for the Storefront Improvement Program is to review the application and guidelines. NOTE: Funds for the Storefront Improvement Program are eligible ONLY for commercial storefronts on Broadway and Essex Street.

If, after reviewing this information, you believe you meet eligibility requirements and have financial stability, we encourage you to submit a completed application to the Community Development Department.

You will be contacted by the project manager, once your application has been reviewed, to let you know if you are eligible and if funds are available, at that time.

For more information, including an application and program guidelines, please contact:

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