

# FACADE & PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

## Program Description

The purposes of this grant are:

- to promote the rehabilitation, restoration, preservation and improvement of the front, side and rear façades of existing commercial, mixed use, institutional, industrial and agricultural (with a retail commercial and/or agri-tourism component) buildings, including retail storefront display areas and business signage; and
- to promote improved landscaping, driveway access, and parking areas of existing commercial, mixed use, institutional, industrial and agricultural (with a retail commercial and/or agri-tourism component) properties, with particular emphasis on the public street edge in order to improve visual quality and create a safer and more comfortable pedestrian environment.

## What is the Maximum Amount?

This program will provide a grant equal to up to 50% of the cost of eligible front, side and rear façades and storefront improvement and restoration works and eligible property improvements, to a maximum grant per project of \$10,000. The maximum grant available under this program may be increased up to \$12,500 on a matching 50/50 basis if:

- the building is wider than 25 feet and/or has more than one storefront.
- the project includes eligible side and/or rear façade improvement and restoration works that are visible from a public street, public space, laneway, parking lot, or the Grand River.
- the building exterior and/or property has original heritage features that are being restored.

## What Type of Facade Improvements are Eligible for a Grant?

- Repair or replacement of storefront windows, doors, awnings and canopies.
- Exterior and entrance modifications to provide barrier-free accessibility.
- Repair, reporting or installation of new masonry and brickwork.
- Repair or replacement of cornices, parapets, eaves, soffits and other architectural details.
- Facade painting, cleaning, treatments, and refinishing as acceptable to the Township.
- Addition of new lighting/upgrading of existing lighting fixtures on exterior facade and in entrance and storefront display areas.
- Installation/improvement of exterior signage (as permitted by the Sign By-law).
- Other similar exterior repairs/improvements as may be approved by the Township.

## What Type of Property Improvements are Eligible for a Grant?

- landscaping features, including plant materials, planters, and planting strips.
- permanent landscaping elements including curbing, decorative walls, fencing, benches, and walkways.
- addition of new lighting and/or upgrading of existing lighting (e.g., conversion to LED lighting) where said lighting is not attached to the building.



## FACADE & PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM CONTINUED

- construction, expansion or upgrading of an outdoor commercial patio/café area.
- construction, consolidation, or improvement of parking areas and driveway access/egress.
- other similar improvements as may be approved by the Township.

### **What Additional Information Needs to be Included With the Application?**

For buildings where heritage features are being restored or reconstructed and for buildings designated under Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act, the façade restoration/reconstruction works should be supported by documentation in the form of historic photographs or drawings clearly showing the heritage feature(s) to be restored or reconstructed.

