

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dan LoBianco

Executive Director

Office: 563-588-4400

dan@dubuquemainstreet.org

DUBUQUE MAIN STREET INTRODUCES NEW GRANT TO ASSIST STOREFRONT BUILDOUT

[Applications Now Being Accepted](#)

Dubuque, IA— Dubuque Main Street (DMS) is introducing a new grant program intended to assist with the buildout of vacant storefronts in downtown Dubuque. Designed to help local entrepreneurs and business owners close funding gaps for improvements to retail/commercial space in underutilized buildings within the city center, the 2019 Downtown Storefront Improvement Grant competition will accept applications through May 15, 2019.

Grant allocation will encourage the creation of new companies and the expansion of existing businesses into downtown Dubuque. The winner(s) of the competition will receive **up to \$5,000** toward rehabilitation costs.

Projects must be for space located in the DMS service area that has been vacant for at least one year. Eligible expenses may include: structural repairs/improvements; code compliance; first floor interior rehabilitation; energy efficiency/sustainability improvements; and handicap accessibility improvements for storefronts, like restrooms or lifts.

Plans will be locally judged on building and district improvement, as well as the benefit to Dubuque of the proposed improvement venture. A 100-percent, dollar-for-dollar, cash match is required.

A brief summary of the project must be presented to DMS by May 15, 2019. From these proposals, up to three projects will be selected by May 31 and developers/business owners will be asked to prepare a full buildout plan and may be asked to give a brief presentation on the plan, with winners announced by June 30, 2019.

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“Having enough financial capital can be one of the biggest hurdles for any new or expanding business venture,” said Chad Wagener, Immediate Past President of DMS and Vice President, Commercial Lending, Premier Bank. “Beyond existing programs for building facades, the intention of this unique grant, funded by Dubuque Main Street, is to help a business owner over the top, help them close their funding gap and get open. In return, we hope this kind of investment helps spur further economic growth while protecting and enhancing the great architectural fabric that we are fortunate to have downtown.”

Interested parties should contact the DMS office at 563-588-4400 or dan@dubuquemainstreet.org for details.

Please note: No deadline extensions can or will be allowed in this nomination process.

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