

## The Main Street Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions 12/17/21

### 1. What is the Main Street Economic Revitalization Grant Program?

This is a state-funded initiative intended to provide no-cost grants for capital improvement projects in central business districts across the state.

Projects that result in improvements to any permanent structure or other asset added to a property that adds to its value are eligible. Business operational expenses are **not** eligible. Applicants must also have other sources of funding to “match” any funds given by this program, details below.

### 2. Who may apply for funding?

Any person or company planning to invest in eligible capital projects in the DMC development district (map below) may apply. DEED has indicated that while grants will be available to all, award priority should be given to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) applicants.



### 3. What investments may be funded by the grant?

Capital investments, such as:

- Repair or renovation of real property, including expansions and additions
- Demolition, site preparation, and building construction
- Landscaping, streetscaping and related site amenities
- Engineering, pre-design and design work
- Infrastructure

#### **4. What investments may NOT be funded by the grant?**

The purchase of real estate is not eligible, nor are business operations or business operating expenses, such as inventory, wages, or working capital.

#### **5. How much is the DMC EDA's grant award?**

The DMC EDA will be distributing up to \$3 million in grants with a maximum of \$750,000 per award. These grant awards can cover up to 30% of the project cost. Remaining funds must come from other sources.

For example:

- a. A \$100,000 capital project can be awarded up to \$30,000 in Main Street Grant funds. The remaining balance must be funded through other sources.

#### **6. What can be used for the matching funds?**

Loans, equity, and local government funding not derived from state or federal sources can be used for the match.

#### **7. When can interested applicants apply for funding?**

The DMC EDA intends to begin accepting applications no later than May 2022. DEED requires all funds to be awarded no later than Dec 31, 2024, and the projects must be completed by Dec 31, 2026.

If you have a project that might qualify, we encourage you to contact [info@dmceda.org](mailto:info@dmceda.org) to set up a call for more information.

#### **8. What is the application process?**

DEED has designated the DMC EDA to develop a customized application process for projects in Rochester. The DMC EDA is engaging local stakeholders, and will utilize a community co-design team, to develop an accessible application and review process. The details of this application process will be forthcoming as the design of the application gets developed.

#### **9. What details will be finalized in the coming weeks and months?**

- Identifying community co-designers that will help the DMC EDA:
  - Build the application and review process
  - Engage outreach and communication partners
  - Identify resources that DMC EDA can make available to applicants
- Building and publishing a webpage
- Begin reviewing applications
- Issuing grant awards

#### **10. Who is providing the grant funding?**

Funding is provided by the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED).

**11. Why did the State of Minnesota initiate this program?**

The [grant program](#) is intended to help central business districts physically rebuild and reposition themselves in the face of a substantially changing downtown economy.

**12. Who is administering the grant program in Rochester?**

The Destination Medical Center Economic Development Agency ([DMC EDA](#)), a private non-profit corporation located in downtown Rochester, MN. The DMC EDA applied for and secured the grant award with the support of the City of Rochester.

Eligible projects must be within the DMC District boundaries (map above).