



## **Main Streets Allegheny Implementation Grant and Event Grant**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question:** Can the same organization apply for multiple opportunities? Can we submit an Implementation grant as well as an Events & District Activation Grant? Is there a limit to the number of categories or projects within a category that one organization can apply for?

**Answer:** Yes, one organization can apply for two grants at the same time. Under each grant program, applicants may submit and have under review up to 2 applications at a time, however only 1 grant will be awarded in each funding round.

**Question:** Can a Council of Governments apply on behalf of their member municipalities? If so, would a COG then be allowed to submit more than one application so that all members have equal chance to apply with our help?

**Answer:** Allowing for maximum award opportunities to various applicants, each applicant, whether it is a COG or individual municipality, can only submit up to two applications per grant type (Implementation/Event).

**Question:** What is the deadline for the event grant? The implementation and placemaking grant is listed as March 22nd.

**Answer:** There is no fixed deadline for the Event Grant. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis until all the available funds have been allocated. Accordingly, we will close the portal and post the closing announcement.

**Question:** For the letter of support, are you asking for one from a representative representing our community at the county/state/federal level? Or are you asking for a letter from our local council/mayor?

**Answer:** Letter of support from local level is sufficient, for example borough manager or council manager.

A letter of support is required for the Implementation Grant application only.

**Question:** If a collection of Boroughs applies together, what municipality needs to issue the letter of support?



**Answer:** It is your decision, but it is recommended that borough acting as applicant and primary grant manager should submit the letter. Other boroughs will then sign the letter indicating their collaboration.

**Question:** For Implementation grants, if over \$30,000 and requiring public bid, can the bid be included in the project timeline or do we need to have that completed as prep before submitting?

**Answer:** It depends. If your project has already completed its procurement process, then you apply for the Implementation Grant to support the financial gap, we will ask for proof of public bid to be submitted. If bidding hasn't been done yet, that process will be included in the project timeline.

An emphasis here is that we look for shovel-ready projects/projects that can be completed in two years.

**Question:** For the event grant, can we use one grant for multiple events? Or Can the Event Grant be used for an existing event or does it have to be a new event? Can it be for a series of events?

**Answer:** Yes [it can be used for multiple events], as long as these multiple events are a series under one umbrella event theme. The event design is the same, just is held at different times over the course of 1 -2 years.

**Question:** Would a greenspace and public art project that is on property owned by a for profit entity but developed by a nonprofit community developer be eligible for this grant?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the property lies within the main street corridor and serves for revitalization and community purposes. Also, please be sure the for-profit entity gives written permission.

**Question:** I wanted to clarify the eligibility requirements for the program. The guidelines mention designated business districts or main streets -- does this refer to the DCED Main Streets designation list? Or Does the downtown area require a formal business district designation? Or How is the boundary of the designated Business district determined? Is that related to our zoning? Or Does the applicant have to be designated Main Street program, or can it be any municipality seeking to do a downtown revitalization project? If the latter, do designated Main Street programs get preference in the applications?



**Answer:** No, it does not have to be a designated “Main Street” through Main Street America or DCED Main Street Matters. Designated business districts or main streets in the guidelines are meant to be corridors that are primarily focused by the municipal leaders and the community in their revitalization efforts. They should be walkable "main street" areas with storefronts filled with businesses or ready for business activation and are public areas for residents and visitors to enjoy.

**Question:** What is the match requirement?

**Answer:** There is no requirement for match; however, we look for projects that provide funding sources and prove needs for funding/prove the project is feasible to complete within 2 years.

**Question:** Is there a geographic distribution target for grants?

**Answer:** No, there isn't, but the applied projects must locate within the business district corridors or within the walkable "main street" areas with businesses or ready for business activation and are public areas for residents and visitors to enjoy.

**Question:** Could improving the look of a rain garden on Main Street count under this grant even though it has stormwater functionality?

**Answer:** Yes, that type of project is eligible.