
Connersville Urban Enterprise Association Residential Exterior Improvement Program Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the Residential Exterior Improvement Program is to provide assistance for improving building appearance and encouraging investment in single-family homes that fall within the boundaries of the Urban Enterprise Zone. This matching grant program is intended to assist property owners in restoring and rehabilitating homes to improve the appearance, create a positive image and improve the quality of life in our community.

Eligibility

In general, the intent of the guidelines is to restrict funding to visible improvements of the exterior façade for residential buildings. The following exterior improvements are eligible, but not limited to:

- Exterior painting (Applicants may still qualify for the old paint program)
- Removal of false façade (Front)
- Restoring the building to its original constructed materials
- Restoration of exterior siding
- Painting (All colors must be approved)
- Window or door repair or replacement
- Repointing of mortar joints
- Porch replacement and carpentry
- Awnings
- Roof repair
- Historic character improvements
- Sidewalks on the homeowners property, not public sidewalks
- Masonry repair
- Repair to building façade (All exterior sides)
- Cleaning of outbuilding exterior
- Total cost of the project must be at least \$1,000.00
- Repairing, replacing and/or adding architecturally appropriate cornices, entrances, doors, windows, decorative detail, porches, and siding
- Adding or replacing architecturally appropriate design elements or lighting, especially where period-appropriate materials are used
- Any improvements must be consistent with the residential character of the neighborhood

Ineligible

- Exterior improvements that do not match the architectural style of the home or that remove historic elements
- Interior improvements
- Landscaping
- Purchase of furnishings, equipment, or other personal property that does not become part of the real estate

General Criteria

Important notes: Priority will be given to owner-occupied residences. Priority will also be given to applicants who have not received prior funding through the program. Due to limited availability of grant funds, not all requests can be funded. Matching funds are on a first come first served basis.

- Grants are limited to exterior preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of homes located within the Connersville Urban Enterprise Zone (see attached map).
- Repairs that are structural in nature are eligible for grant funding, but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Grant funding is NOT available for the purchase or rental of tools, machinery or equipment, or for homeowner labor.
- The application must thoroughly describe the project and should include supplementary materials such as drawings, specifications, photographs showing where work will be done, historic photos (if available), budgets and schedule.
- The applicant shall comply with all zoning & permitting requirements of the City of Connersville. If the property is located within the locally-designated Historic District, the project will require review and approval by the Historic Preservation Commission or its staff prior to start of work.
- Homeowner can re-apply every 12 months if additional improvements are being made.
- The Project property may not have any outstanding municipal debt, including but not limited to city taxes, utilities, or other municipal liens.
- The Property Owner must submit a completed application and complete the approval process prior to beginning the project. Any renovation started before the application and approval process is completed will not be eligible for a grant.
- A Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission which approves the proposed renovations, must be received before the commencement of any exterior work can take place if located in the Historic District.

Project Funding

- Up to 50% of the total project costs with a \$2,500 maximum grant and a \$500 minimum grant for eligible improvements. The Property Owner is responsible for 50% of the project costs up to \$2,500 and any excess costs.
- 100% Project funding may be available if there are extenuating circumstances, please explain...
- Non-owner occupied projects are eligible.
- Before pictures required prior to approval.
- CUEA will rebate the property owner after work is complete *and* a final paid invoice is submitted and a copy of canceled check for applicant's half is provided. An "after" photograph must also be included.
- All work must be completed and funded within six (6) months of application approval, with a three (3) month extension is available by request.