



**TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO  
and Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership  
HISTORIC FAÇADE INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM**

I. Introduction

The architectural quality of North Wilkesboro’s downtown area is important to the entire town, its history, image and economy. The appearance of downtown is largely determined by the condition of its buildings. Because this appearance also forms the basis of the public’s overall impression of downtown, the upgrading and preservation of North Wilkesboro’s downtown is crucial to the continued livelihood of North Wilkesboro. Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership, Inc. (DNWP) and the Town of North Wilkesboro would like to encourage all downtown property owners to participate in this program.

The following is an outline of the Façade Incentive Grant Program developed by the Town of North Wilkesboro and Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership, Inc. for the continued effort of downtown revitalization.

These guidelines should be followed by property owners, tenants, and contractors involved in exterior improvements or rehabilitation to buildings in the downtown area. They will be used by the DNWP in approving Façade Improvement Incentive Grant requests for projects in the downtown area. By following these guidelines, applicants can ensure that their projects can utilize available downtown incentives and will enhance the image of downtown as a special place to work, shop and socialize.

A. Purpose:

1. Promote façade renovation in downtown North Wilkesboro
2. Attract new business to the downtown
3. Preserve the unique historic character of downtown North Wilkesboro
4. Encourage the use of quality material in the renovation of downtown property



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**B. Eligibility:**

1. Any tenant or property owner in downtown
2. Owners and tenants may request incentive grants separately; however, any tenant must have the owner's written permission attached to the application.
3. The grant will be administered on a first-come basis based on availability of funds annually. \*Budget operates on a July 1 –June 30 calendar year.
4. The program budget will only allow one grant per location per year.
5. If a property owner owns more than one building or façade in downtown he or she will only be eligible for one grant per year.
6. \*Additional consideration will be given to projects with significant historical value.
7. \*Additional consideration will be given to projects that prevent, diminish or eliminate a blighted condition.

**II. Funding Guidelines:**

- A. Applicant must use the grant funds only for expenses reasonably associated with exterior rehabilitation.



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B. Grants are not intended to be used for general merchandise work.



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- C. Applicant will make every effort to complete the project as described in his application and to notify the Main Street Program Executive Director of the need to change the originally approved plans. Changes to original plans are discouraged, but will be dealt with on a case by case basis. All changes must be approved by the Historic Downtown North Wilkesboro, Inc. Review Board before being undertaken and that failure to obtain approval of any changes could result in revocation of the original approval by the Review Board.
- D. Every effort should be made to complete the project within ninety (90) working days and if substantial progress toward completion of the project cannot be shown after this period, the Town could revoke approval after thirty (30) working days written notice.
- E. All work on the project must be approved before grant funds are awarded.
- F. Town of North Wilkesboro will pay sixty percent of the cost of improvements not to exceed \$2000.00 This based on the first 30 linear feet of building width fronting a public street, plus \$50 per additional linear foot fronting street with a max of \$4000.

III. Criteria:

- A. The maximum grant amount will be \$2000.00 or up to \$4000.00 per façade and/or storefront project based on property street front width.



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- B. Suggested improvements include new awnings, exterior paint, restoring original materials and finish.
  - C. Plans must be consistent with the original or historic character of the buildings.
  - D. Projects for architectural improvements will be evaluated in terms of compliance with existing ordinances, innovation, and context.
- IV. Application Process:
- A. Applicant completes application and includes with application design plan, swatches if needed and owner's permission.
  - B. Downtown North Wilkesboro's Design Committee's Review Board will review the application.
  - C. Applicant meets with Downtown North Wilkesboro's Design Committee.
  - D. The Review Board will send a Notification Letter to the applicant as to whether the project is accepted as described, accepted with conditions, or rejected.
  - E. A contract agreement must be signed prior to beginning work. Parties in the agreement will be the applicant and Downtown North Wilkesboro



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Partnership, which is authorized to sign on behalf of the Town of North Wilkesboro.

- F. Upon project completion, copies of all paid statements of total project cost must be sent to the DNWP. The work will be inspected and the statements will be reviewed. After the work is reviewed, a check will be requested for the approved, eligible amount as per the guidelines and criteria sections of this program. Work must be done in accordance with the signed agreement for payment to occur.
  
- G. Applications should be mailed or delivered to:

Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership, Inc  
Post Office Box 1703  
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659.  
Phone: 336-667-7129  
  
Email: [tourism@north-wilkesboro.com](mailto:tourism@north-wilkesboro.com)

Approved by Town of North Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners:

March 6, 2001 and \*revisions approved December 5, 2017