



[PRESS RELEASE – City of Indianola Downtown Façade and Interior Improvement Program]

City of Indianola Community Development

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CITY OF INDIANOLA, IOWA ALLOCATES \$125,000 IN ASSISTANCE FUNDING TO DOWNTOWN SQUARE FOR DOWNTOWN FAÇADE AND INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Indianola, Iowa (January 20, 2023) – The City of Indianola is excited to announce the launch of a grant program to support downtown business façade and interior improvements. The Downtown Façade and Interior Improvement Program allows for property owners to apply for up to \$25,000 in grant funding for façade and interior improvements to buildings located in and adjacent to Indianola’s Downtown Square.

“Our Downtown Square has had some transformative changes take place over the past four years with both Warren County and the City making investments in the heart of Indianola” says Charlie Dissell, Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Indianola. “I am excited for business and property owners to continue these investments that will make Indianola’s Downtown Square a destination for all.”

Examples of projects eligible for funding through this program may include new signage, windows, doors, exterior painting, emergency repairs, and tuckpointing. Eligible interior improvements may include upper-story interior rehabilitation or creation, including creating new upper-story housing units or commercial spaces.

“We are thrilled to see Indianola investing in the downtown district and taking steps to ensure its long-term success” Rachel Fusco, Executive Director for the Warren County Economic Development Corporation shares. “This program will drive positive change and further investment by property owners thus helping create a vibrant center of economic activity that attracts additional businesses and commerce.”

The goal of the Downtown Façade and Interior Improvement program is to encourage improvements to the Downtown Square that will maintain, preserve, or improve aesthetics and build a destination where local businesses can thrive and people of all backgrounds can connect, create, and celebrate.

“Our historic downtown square is a billboard for Indianola. It’s an asset that provides a return, not only to the businesses that reside in it, but the community as a whole.” Amanda Zwanziger, President and CEO of the Indianola Chamber of Commerce shares. She added that “It’s also a very important part of the tourism strategy that the Indianola Chamber, city, and tourism stakeholders throughout the community will be working on developing in the coming months. This new Façade and Interior Improvements program will be instrumental in helping business owners align with that brand strategy through improvements to their properties.”

“Investing in our historic business district in the past has proven to be a wise use of resources, yielding a strong return on our community’s investment into its local businesses.” City Manager



Ben Reeves spoke in regard to the program. "I am excited to see the creativity and enhancements that will develop under this new facade program."

The City extends an invitation to property and business owners located within the Planning Boundary identified in the adopted Downtown Design Guidelines to apply. Applications for the grant are now being accepted through April 28th, 2023. Application materials and program information can be found at the following link:

Indianolalowa.gov/208/Downtown-Facade-and-Interior-Improvement

An informative session overviewing the application process and requirements will be held in the City Council Chambers on **February 23rd at 9:30am**. This session will be recorded and uploaded to the City's YouTube Channel.