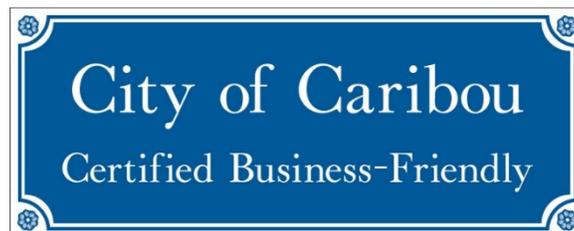




Caribou Façade Improvement Grant Program





City of Caribou, Maine

*Municipal Building
25 High Street
Caribou, ME 04736
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Caribou Façade Improvement Grant Program

The Façade Improvement Grant Program is a proposed partnership between the City of Caribou and the private sector to improve the facades of commercial and mixed use properties within our designated Downtown TIF District. The program offers grant funds to be matched by an equal or greater investment of private funds for the purpose of restoring/renovating commercial storefronts and replacing deteriorated or poor quality commercial signs and awnings.

Process and Guidelines

The City of Caribou will determine an application process for selecting property each year to receive the grant. This grant may be used for a variety of façade improvements including, but not limited to, painting, window or door repairs/replacements, signage, awnings, tuckpointing, and storefront restorations. Grant funds will be awarded on a competitive basis; Small and large projects are eligible for funding.

The grant amount for each project would be capped at \$7,500 or 50% of the project costs whichever is less.

Each applicant may only be awarded one grant per calendar year.

Building projects must be designed by a qualified design professional and signs must be produced by a professional sign maker.

Applicant must obtain all necessary approvals and/or permits from the City of Caribou. Furthermore, no Façade Improvement Grant shall be made unless and until the proposed improvement work has been reviewed and approved by City staff.

Grants would only be paid after the work has been completed to the satisfaction of the city and proof of payment to the contractor or vendor for materials. If the work is to be done by the building owner, only materials are grant eligible.

Funding

Funding for this comes from the Downtown TIF District. As part of this district the City has set aside approximately \$1,000,000 over the life of the district for façade improvement. Annual funding is subject to approval by the City Council during the normal budgeting process.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the grant the applicant must be the owner of the property. Business owners leasing or renting space are encouraged to work with their building owner to develop an application. Applicant and lessees must be current on all city taxes and bills from the Caribou Utilities District. If the property has been declared dangerous by the Caribou City Council in accordance with MRSA Title 17 §2851, as it may be amended from time to time, the applicant shall not be eligible for this grant.

Decisions

All decisions will be made by the City Manager, or his designee or any applicable committee, in consultation with the Code Enforcement Officer. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any and all applications.

Financial Information:

1. Estimated project costs: \$ _____

2. Grant amount applying for: \$ _____

Façade Improvement Grant equals half of project costs (up to \$7,500) to be paid when project is completed and invoices are presented with a photo of the completed work.

Date: _____

Applicant Signature (must be the owner of record): _____

Return to:

City Manager
25 High Street
Caribou, ME 04736

citymanager@cariboumaine.org