



Press Release

From The Office Of
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SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE ANNOUNCES \$500,000 AVAILABLE IN DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANTS

Grant Applications Due by Friday, May 20th, 2022

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone today announced that applications for the 2022 Round of the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Grant Program are now available. A pool of \$500,000 is available for partial funding of capital projects located in, or adjacent to, downtown areas on municipally-owned property. Award recipients will be selected by the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Citizens Advisory Panel following a competitive application process.

2022 marks the milestone 20th Round of the Downtown Revitalization Grant Program, a highly successful program that has provided funding to 300 projects supporting revitalization efforts in communities across Suffolk County since 1997. In total, over \$12 million in funds have been granted to Downtown Revitalization initiatives.

Applications for the Round 20 Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Grant Program are due by 4:00pm on Friday, May 20, 2022.

“This economic program allows us to invest in our robust, vibrant downtowns that are needed to keep our region competitive and grow our local economy,” **said Suffolk County Executive Bellone.** “We will continue to make the quality investments needed to ensure a prosperous future for all those who call Suffolk home.”

Grant applicants must be organizations that represent a downtown area and who partner with their local municipality. Organizations that represent downtown areas including business improvement districts, chambers of commerce, civic associations, historical societies, beautification societies, and local development corporations are eligible applicants. Towns or villages who partner with a community organization are required to pass resolutions supporting the project on which the two entities partner. Projects must be capital in nature and have a significant and sustainable impact that enhances economic activity.

Among the various projects that are eligible for grants are public parking facilities, curb and sidewalk construction, pedestrian walkways, street lighting, public restrooms, disabled accessibility, renovations to existing structures, and cultural facilities. The criteria for eligible projects include that the project must be a capital improvement project, funding request must be at least \$10,000, the organization must partner with a municipality and be located on municipally-owned property in or adjacent to a downtown and the project life span must be at least 15 years.

In 2021, Suffolk County awarded \$500,000 in funding to twelve organizations for projects that included LED lighting, pedestrian improvements, park improvements and a decorative archway. A pool of \$500,000 was made available to partially fund qualified capital projects.

The Downtown Revitalization Citizens Advisory Panel utilizes a point system to evaluate each application to ensure projects that receive funding will make the greatest contribution to the long-term improvement of local downtowns and have a positive economic impact on Suffolk County as a whole. The application and guidelines can be found on the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization website.

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