



Escanaba DDA – Façade Program Overview

Applications for 2016 submission due May 25, 2016

The Escanaba Downtown Development Authority sponsors an annual “Downtown Façade Improvement Program”. The program is designed to assist building owners with revitalization efforts for their buildings located downtown. The program utilizes Community Development Block Grants from the State of Michigan as the main financial incentive to complete the renovation of the prospective store front. The grants require a percentage of matching funds by the building owner based on the impact the project will have on the building and downtown. The matching funds can be paid or can be another project to the building that is approved as part of the total project by the State Agency.

The DDA takes applications on an annual basis for the program. Applications will be selected by the DDA Board based on the impact to the building and downtown. The projects are designed to restore the original look of the historic buildings in Downtown Escanaba. Façade Program participants will be required to make a \$1500 non-refundable deposit at the start of the program. The funds are put into the participants match requirement at the start of the construction phase of the program.

The DDA’s support of the program is based on the funding of the upfront Architectural fees that support plan drawings used in the application to the State, as part of the grant process. The DDA and the City of Escanaba submit the paperwork for the projects. The DDA also supplies a Certified Grant Administrator for the process. They will support the projects from start to construction completion.

All project beneficiaries must agree to abide by a five year restricted resale and reuse provision policy that is formally identified with the grant documents. Projects must be bid out according to the Davis Bacon Act.

The Façade program has been very popular with business owners in Downtown Escanaba over the last 20 years. 40 projects have been completed or are about to enter the construction phase as part of this year’s program. Information on the program can be obtained at the Escanaba DDA Office.