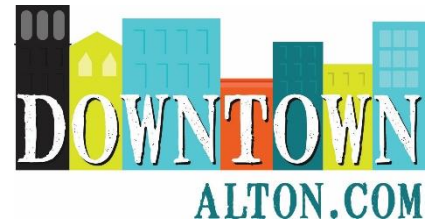


Alton Main Street

111 E. 4th Street – Suite 315
Alton, IL 62002
Phone: (618)-463-1016
info@altonmainstreet.org
www.DowntownAlton.com



Alton Main Street Façade Improvement Grant Program

Alton Main Street is excited to launch the Fall 2020 round of our Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) Program. This program is designed to assist property and business owners in rehabilitating the commercial facades of their buildings for the purpose of creating a positive visual impact, stimulating private investment, and complementing other community development efforts.

Our goal is simple. We want to provide you with the resources needed to improve the exterior appearance of your business. Research has shown that exterior building improvements result in an increase in sales in the year after the improvements are made (and this increase is often sustained for several years). Additionally, improvements will motivate owners and tenants of other properties in surrounding areas to make similar investments.

Eligibility Area

In order to be eligible for the FIG Program, your building must be located within the Alton Main Street district boundary. (see map below)

Eligible and Ineligible Grant Uses

For the Fall 2020 round of grants, replacement/refurbishment of existing commercial signage or installation of new commercial signage are the only eligible projects. Grant-funded signage must be on the exterior of the building and be visible from street.

Applicants are allowed to use any company that they wish to complete the work; although as an added incentive, Arrow Signs, located at 4545 N. Alby Road in Godfrey, IL, has offered a 5% discount to any applicant who would like to utilize their production and installation services. Contact info: 618-466-0818 / info@arrowsignsinc.com

FIG Process

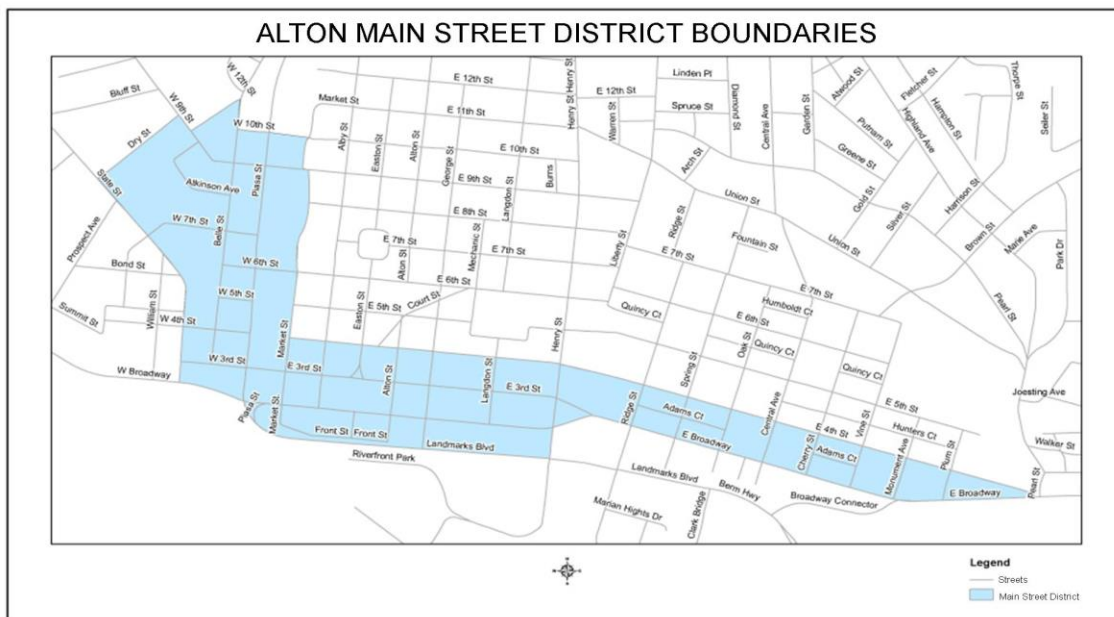
- A total of \$1,000 is available to be awarded in matching grant funding, and Alton Main Street will be awarding up to five grants. Grants are required to have a 1:1 match.
- A business may apply for a grant up to \$1,000 but please note that the business must spend an equal amount or more on the project.
- Interested property owners as well as tenants with owner's permission are eligible for the program.
- Applications will be considered by a FIG Program Review Committee to determine grant recipients and to assure, through an equitable process, that the application meets all applicable design-guidelines.
- Applicants will also be required to adhere to all requirements as prescribed by the City of Alton, including review by the Appearance Review Commission prior to any work being done and any permits that are required. AMS can assist you in this process, and can potentially help identify historic preservationists and other professionals to advise you.
- Applications submitted will be conceptual. The committee will select projects based on the merit of the concepts presented and then will work with the selected applicants to develop a final design.

- 50% of the approved funds will be given upon awarding the grant, and the remaining 50% of the approved funds will be given upon completion of the project.
- Projects must be completed by Dec 31st 2020.
- The completed work must adhere to the final design plans agreed to with the FIG Program Committee to ensure final payment.
- A “Before” photo of the existing sign (or the existing building façade if no sign currently exists) along with a rendering of the proposed new sign will need to be submitted with your application.
- An “After” photo will need to be submitted before the second half of the grant funding is dispersed.
- This grant will not fund labor costs of the building or business owner, but volunteers are available for some projects.
- All improvements must meet local, state and federal codes.
- Grants must be submitted and approvals must be attained from AMS and the City of Alton before work begins.
- The City of Alton has a façade grant program that you may explore to assist with funding the remaining costs of your project. Alton Main Street can assist you in making the connection.

TIMELINE:

- Application deadline: Nov 15, 2020
- Grant recipient(s) announced: Nov 30, 2020
- Applicant to meet with the City of Alton's Appearance Review Committee before Dec 31, 2020
- Project to be completed by March 31, 2020

Additional information and guidance on historical restoration is available from the Alton Main Street office. We thank First Mid Bank & Trust for their sponsorship of this program.



Alton Main Street – engaging our community in the continued renewal of our historic downtown district and Mississippi River heritage by cultivating an attractive center of economic and social activity.



Alton Main Street Façade Improvement Grant Program Initial Application

Applicant Name _____

Business Name or Building Name _____

Physical Address _____

Mailing address (if different from business address):

Email _____

Phone _____

Website (if applicable) _____

Type of Business _____

Date Business Opened or Will Open _____

Brief description of the project _____

Total project cost _____ Amount requested _____

Please note: a “Before” photo of the existing sign (or the existing building façade if no sign currently exists) along with a rendering of the proposed new sign will need to be submitted with this application.

By checking this box the applicant attests to having the funds on hand that are required for the 1:1 grant match, and agrees not to engage in any fundraising, crowdfunding, etc. in order to solicit money from the public to cover the applicant’s portion of the grant agreement.

Date submitted _____

Signature of Applicant _____

(If the applicant is not the property owner)

Signature of Property Owner _____

Alton Main Street will follow up with you to discuss your project and other services we may be able to assist you with. If you have any questions, please contact Sara McGibany at Alton Main Street at (618) 463-1016 or email sara@altonmainstreet.org. You may email or mail this application to the address below.

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