Brunswick Development Corporation

Your Community Investment Partner

Downtown Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) and Loan Program



October 2026

BRUNSWICK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2026 Downtown Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) and Loan Program Information and Guidelines

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND INTENT

Downtown Brunswick has been experiencing and benefiting from public-private strategic investments in recent years. Local, State, and Federal funding is helping the Town to address its aging infrastructure including our bridges, roads, commercial streetscape, and historic properties in the downtown district. Ongoing investment in Downtown Brunswick is critical to both the function, character, and economic well-being of the Town's civic and commercial hub.

The net effect of these targeted investments is increased private investment evidenced by key redevelopment projects such as the Tontine block, the Central Fire Station, and the attraction of many new businesses along Maine Street that continue to make our commercial district so vibrant. To continue this positive trend, there are many small businesses and property owners in the Downtown that would benefit from matching grant assistance to stimulate and supplement investment in their aging infrastructure. One of the core elements of the BDC Mission is to promote and support various capital improvements and to eliminate and prevent conditions that cause blight in the Town of Brunswick.

The Brunswick Development Corporation (BDC) is currently offering matching grant assistance and/or a below-market interest loan to businesses located in the Downtown commercial corridor. The catchment area of the specific properties eligible for this targeted grant/loan program is indicated on the BDC FIG and Loan Program Eligible District map (north to Cabot Street, south to Noble/Cleveland Streets, east to Federal, and west to Union Street).

The BDC Downtown FIG and accompanying loan program will be administered in partnership with the Brunswick Downtown Association (BDA), who will help to market this funding opportunity and connect interested parties with BDC staff.

ELIGIBILITY

Businesses and property owners are eligible if they are located within the Downtown commercial corridor area (see attached map). Matching grant funds will be used only for

eligible improvements to the exterior of buildings/structures. Eligible uses may include but not be limited to:

- Signage, awning and/or storefront improvement
- Restoration of original/historic windows, doors, and trim where possible
- Removal of non-historic features and/or inappropriate non-historic alterations and additions
- Repair or replacement of windows, doors, trim
- Roofing visible from Street level
- Cleaning and/or painting/repainting or wood/brick/stone surfaces
- Replacement, repair, or addition of architectural details (i.e. cornices, bulkheads, transoms, etc.
- Cleaning and repair or installation of approved siding
- Exterior lighting or landscaping
- Fire escape repairs or removal
- Exterior code violations
- Entranceway modifications, including provisions to improve accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Interior repairs of any kind
- Non-visible roofing
- Any improvements not seen from the public right-of-way publicly owned space
- Minor maintenance and repairs
- Purchase of commercial property/equipment
- Business operations-related costing including business inventory, debt reduction, etc.
- Property acquisition, new construction and/or expansion of the building area
- Parking lot surfaces

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

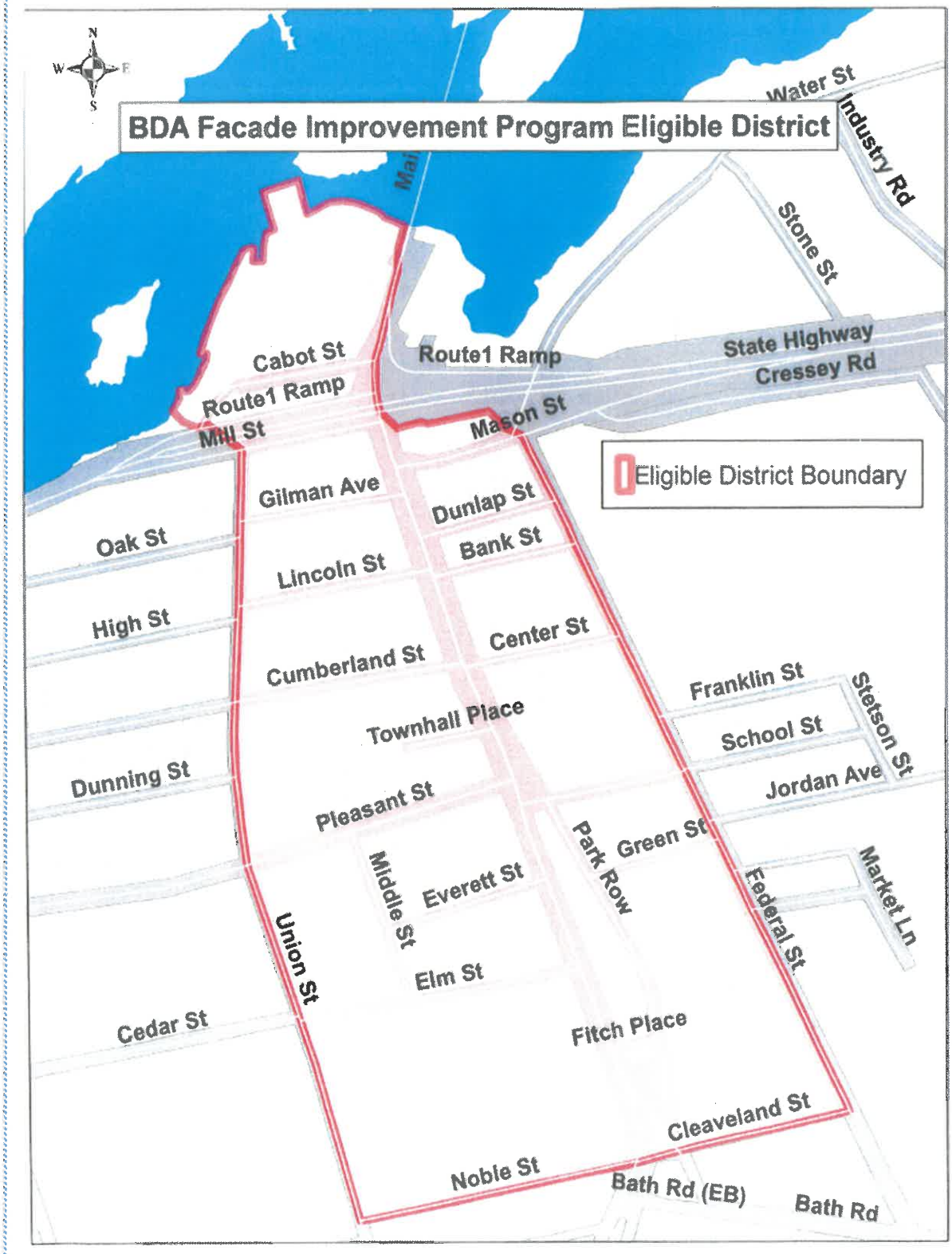
1. Applications will be accepted starting on October 1, 2026 and until such time that until all funds are committed.
2. Applications will be reviewed in the order received and on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are limited.
3. All applications must be reviewed by the Village Review Board, the Town Committee that has oversight of any proposed improvements within the Downtown Historic District.

4. The applicant may be the property owner or the lessee/renter and either may provide the matching funds. If the applicant is the lessee/renter, the building owner must co-sign the application.
5. Façade grants are for commercial properties only.
6. Matching Grants are up to $10,000 dollars or 50% of the total cost of the improvement project. The grant maximum is $10,000.
7. Each applicant will be awarded only one grant in the grant cycle.
8. Applications must obtain all necessary approvals and/or permits from the Department of Planning and Development at the Town of Brunswick.
9. The applicant must not owe any property taxes and must be in good standing with the State of Maine.
10. The project must be completed within 6-12 months of approval by the BDC Board.
11. The Applicant will be reimbursed upon completion of the project.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

1. BDC staff will review all façade improvement grants and bring them to the BDC Board for review and approval.
2. Preference will be given to proposals that:
    - Make significant visual improvements to the storefronts/building facades.
    - Plan to match more than 50% of the grant amount.
    - Take advantage of BDC's loan program (offers below market interest rates and shorter terms).
3. Process for Payment:
    - Upon completion, the business/property owner shall submit invoices and cancelled checks/credit card statements/bank for the work completed to the BDC Staff (Sally Costello, Director of Economic and Community Development, scostello@brunswickme.gov). **The reimbursement cannot cover project costs that were completed before the project approval date.**
    - There will be an inspection of the final work to ensure adherence to the approved scope of work by the BDC Board.
    - Reimbursement will usually be within 2 weeks if all invoices/receipts are submitted.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the project, please contact Sally Costello, Director of Economic and Community Development: 207-721-4051 or scostello@brunswickme.gov.


BDA Facade Improvement Program Eligible District
N
W
E
S
Water St
Industry Rd
Stone St
State Highway
Cressey Rd
Route1 Ramp
Cabot St
Route1 Ramp
Mill St
Mason St
Eligible District Boundary
Gilman Ave
Dunlap St
Oak St
Bank St
Lincoln St
High St
Center St
Cumberland St
Franklin St
Stetson St
Townhall Place
School St
Dunning St
Jordan Ave
Pleasant St
Park Row
Green St
Market Ln
Middle St
Everett St
Federal St
Union St
Elm St
Cedar St
Fitch Place
Cleaveland St
Noble St
Bath Rd (EB)
Bath Rd