

Economic Development
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April 1, 2016

DOWNTOWN HOUSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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Projects eligible to receive assistance from this established pool of funds must meet the following requirements:

- The project must assist in the creation of new market-rate downtown rental and/or owner-occupied residential units within the Greater Downtown Urban Renewal District (see attached map) and have timely commencement & completion dates identified.
- The project must be the rehabilitation of an existing structure.
- Within the Washington Neighborhood, rental units must be located above a commercial component on the first floor of the building unless the project is rehabilitating or reusing a former church or school building.
- Exterior alterations are subject to design review and approval. The *Historic District Guidelines* shall apply to projects located in Historic Preservation District. The *Downtown Design Guidelines* shall apply to all other project locations. Projects which conform to the applicable guidelines may be reviewed and approved by the City Planner. Projects that do not strictly conform to the applicable guidelines will be forwarded to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for consideration. New construction or substantial rehabilitation projects may also be considered by the HPC. The process for review is at the discretion of the City Planner. Guidelines can be viewed and downloaded at <http://cityofdubuque.org/1295/Design-Guidelines>.
- Any signs on the property that do not comply with City zoning regulations and design guidelines must be included in the design review and improved to comply with applicable City Codes. Submittal must include the design materials and colors that will be used on the sign face, how the sign will be displayed, and any lighting proposed.
- A detailed rendering/drawing of the proposed project must be included. The plans should include dimensions and architectural details and label materials. Plans prepared by a design professional (e.g. architect or draftsperson) are strongly recommended. Applications without detailed drawings will not be considered complete and will not be accepted by the City.
- Deviation from an approved project plan may disqualify the project from the program.
- City funded projects may be required to meet sound proofing, lighting, security, or other standards – as determined by the City of Dubuque following an internal neighborhood impact study – particularly when units are located in mixed-use neighborhoods.

- Preference will be given to projects that also utilize Federal and/or State Historic Tax Credits.
- No more than \$10,000 in assistance will be considered per residential unit.
- In general, no more than \$750,000 will be provided to a single project.
- No developer fee will be permitted until all city assistance is paid or satisfied in full.
- The City will disburse committed funds after the project is complete and a Certificate of Occupancy has been provided for the housing units.
- A minimum of 2 new housing units must be created in the project.
- Units smaller than 650 square feet will not be eligible for this project.
- No residential units will be allowed to have a restriction of less than 80% of the median income.
- No more than 65% of the units of any project can have a restriction of 80% of the median income.
- A project that is funded by Low Income Tax Credits (LITC) is not eligible.
- Owner of property must certify that all property in the City of Dubuque, for which the owner has any interest, complies with all applicable City of Dubuque ordinances and regulations, including, but not limited to, housing, building, zoning, fire, health, and vacant and abandoned building regulations.
- Applications will be reviewed monthly by the Review Committee, consisting of at least one representative from the City's Economic Development, Planning, and Building Services Departments. The Review Committee will score each application and will fund projects that meet the program criteria and are ready to commence within three months.

Greater Downtown Urban Renewal District Attachment A: Subarea Map

