

**261—45.2(15) Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

*“Agreement”* means a contract for financial assistance under the program describing the terms on which the financial assistance is to be provided.

*“Applicant”* means a city applying for financial assistance under the program.

*“Authority”* means the economic development authority created in Iowa Code section 15.105.

*“Building”* means a structure located in a city that is either:

1. Used or intended to be used for commercial or industrial purposes; or
2. Used or intended to be used for residential purposes.

*“Building”* includes structures in which some floors may be used for retail stores, shops, salesrooms, markets, or similar commercial uses, or for offices, banks, civic administration activities, professional services, or similar business or civic uses, and other floors are used, designed, or intended to be used for residential purposes.

*“Community catalyst”* means a building or buildings which, if remediated, would stimulate additional economic growth or reinvestment in the community, especially private sector financial investment. For purposes of this chapter, “economic growth” may include the creation of additional jobs, growth of new or existing businesses, development of new housing units, increased property values, or potential population growth. The building will be located in an area central to the city’s economic development activities. A community catalyst project will be expected to have a significant positive expected impact on the community.

*“Costs directly related”* means expenditures that are incurred for acquisition, deconstruction, disposal, redevelopment, or rehabilitation of a community catalyst to the extent that the expenditures are attributable directly to the remediation or redevelopment of the community catalyst. “Costs directly related” includes expenditures for site preparation work, surveying, construction materials, construction labor, architectural services, engineering services, building permits, building inspection fees, and interest accrued on a construction loan during the time period allowed for project completion under an agreement entered into pursuant to the program. “Costs directly related” does not include expenditures for furnishings, appliances, accounting services, legal services, loan origination and other financing costs, syndication fees and related costs, developer fees, or the costs associated with selling or renting the dwelling units whether incurred before or after completion of the housing project.

*“Director”* means the director of the authority.

*“Financial assistance”* means a grant or loan made by the authority to an applicant approved for funding under the program.

*“Program”* means the procedures, agreement, terms, and assistance established and provided pursuant to this chapter.

*“Project”* means a proposed plan for the remediation of underutilized buildings in a city. “Project” must include at least one building but no more than two buildings. For two buildings to be considered part of the same project, the buildings must be contiguous and under the same ownership. All community catalyst buildings to be remediated must be included in the proposed plan upon application, and the proposed plan must demonstrate the steps and actions necessary to further remediation and redevelopment efforts in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

*“Public nuisance”* means a building that is a menace to the public health, welfare, or safety, or that is structurally unsafe, unsanitary, or not provided with adequate safe egress, or that constitutes a fire hazard, or is otherwise dangerous to human life, or that in relation to the existing use constitutes a hazard to the public health, welfare, or safety by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, or abandonment. “Public nuisance” includes buildings with blighting characteristics as defined by Iowa Code section 403.2.

*“Redevelopment”* means development activities associated with a project that are undertaken either for the purpose of remediating underutilized buildings, for constructing new buildings or improvements at a site where formerly existing buildings have been demolished, or for rehabilitating, reusing or repurposing existing buildings or improvements at a project site. “Redevelopment” typically includes projects that result in the elimination of blighting characteristics as defined by Iowa Code section 403.2.

*“Remediation”* or *“remediating”* means the redevelopment, repair, improvement, rehabilitation, disposal, or deconstruction of at least one but no more than two underutilized buildings at a site included in a project.

*“Underutilized building”* means a building that is vacant or mostly vacant, is blighted or severely deteriorated, and contains potential safety hazards including structural instability, code noncompliance, vermin infestation, vandalism or potential for vandalism, vagrancy, hazardous materials or generally unsafe or hazardous conditions. The building may or may not be considered a public nuisance.  
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