
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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FY 2022 MAIN STREET IOWA CHALLENGE GRANT AWARDS

Summary. On October 20, 2021, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) [awarded](#) \$1.2 million in FY 2022 [Main Street Iowa Challenge Grants](#) to 13 communities in Iowa. The Challenge Grant Program is provided by [Main Street Iowa \(MSI\)](#) for one-to-one matching grants to brick-and-mortar building projects for vertical infrastructure projects that contribute to the development of designated Main Street districts.

Background. Funding for MSI comes from an annual State appropriation from the [Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund \(SWJCF\)](#) to the [High Quality Jobs Program](#). The MSI Program works with communities as they capitalize on the unique identity, assets, and character of their commercial districts.

The Challenge Grant Program identifies applications that are competitive in the following areas:

- Comprehensive building rehabilitation projects that provide increased business, housing, or job opportunities.
- Projects that incorporate quality design and preservation-based strategies.
- Projects that support local revitalization efforts and stimulate additional district investment.
- Projects that are well-planned and achievable within the two-year contract period.

Eligible applicants include Main Street organizations in good standing that may apply on behalf of a property or project within the designated district. Eligible projects for funding include:

- Rehabilitation and/or restoration of significant commercial properties within the designated Main Street district, including exterior and interior rehabilitation, structural repairs and building system improvements, and a single specific phase of a large rehabilitation.
- Compatible new construction, including building additions with first-floor commercial and upper-floor commercial or residential additions, not including razing of an existing structure.
- Work on multiple properties connected by a common need or issue, such as façade restoration for several buildings, activation of highly visible rear entries, or installation of an elevator and a common hallway linking several buildings to support upper-story development.

Ineligible projects for funding include:

- Public government buildings or religious facilities.
- Buildings set for demolition or deconstruction.
- Projects involving first-floor storefront residential use, including short-term lodging accommodations.

More Information. A list of FY 2022 award recipients can be found [here](#).

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