

Council Agenda Report

Date: April 11, 2018

Prepared by: Brandon Hesson, Associate Director, Economic Development

Submitted by: Odie Wheeler, Director, Public Works

SUBJECT: FY20 Façade Improvement Program (FIP) funding through Community Legacy grant program

Recommendation: That Council: Authorize staff to apply for FY19 Façade Improvement Program from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Legacy grant program.

Discussion:

The FY18 Façade Improvement Program is provided through a Community Legacy grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development, which has produced a pool of \$50,000. The intent of our application was to divide this money as close to evenly as possible between residential and commercial projects. Projects are awarded 50% reimbursement, with a cap of \$7,500 per project.

After the grant award, the Façade Improvement Project was marketed through conventional media, appearing in *The Star Democrat*, the *Dorchester Star* and the *Dorchester Banner*, as well as through social media on the City of Cambridge Facebook Page. The program also appears online at choosecambridge.com > Economic Development > New Initiatives, where a brochure can be found, as well as contact information. Notification was also made through email addresses of previously-interested applicants or waiting lists, and the code enforcement division regularly directs homeowners to the program.

Projects are required to be within the Sustainable Community boundaries and gateways. This is a self-nominating program, and property owners apply to receive funding through applications. After receiving local approvals for necessary permits, applications are reviewed by Economic Development staff, a local committee of volunteers, DHCD staff and the Maryland Historic Trust before they are completely approved.

This program is already funded for FY19, and this application would fund continuation of the program in FY20.

<u>Residential</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
2013	\$21,035	\$9,750
2014	\$152,189	\$88,629
2015	\$88,097	\$37,681
2016	\$76,657	\$30,773
2017	\$63,025	\$28,112
2018*	\$62,850	\$28,024
TOTAL	\$463,853	\$222,969

<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
2013	\$18,218	\$8,474
2014	\$17,020	\$8,474
2015	\$34,753	\$13,973
2016	\$73,808	\$17,508
2017	\$55,539	\$14,180
2018*	\$65,126	\$19,765
TOTAL	\$264,464	\$82,374

<u>Maple Street District</u>	<u>Project Total</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
2013	\$18,218	\$8,474
2014	\$55,349	\$27,204
2015	\$50,315	\$16,253
2016	\$69,878	\$15,543
2017	\$55,539	\$14,180
2018*	\$50,715	\$12,560
TOTAL	\$193,761.30	\$81,654

(*) – Projected. Projects in review, pending approvals, and a small balance remaining in program budget.

Fiscal Impact:

The Economic Development department has been able to leverage more than \$300,000 in Façade Improvement grant funds, to create more than \$700,000 in private investment in commercial and residential structures within the Sustainable Area boundaries, preserving the historic nature of our neighborhoods and improving property values.

Approved by: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager

