

CAMBRIDGE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Residential

2018

PROGRAM MISSION

The City encourages residential property owners to improve the appearance of housing exteriors, especially historic, through the Façade Improvement Program. The goal of this program is designed to create visual changes within the neighborhood, which contributes to the community development process.

PROGRAM ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Residents within the City’s “Sustainable Community” boundary are encouraged to apply for exterior improvement projects for their owner-occupied property that advance the Façade Improvement Program mission. Properties that are listed for sale are not eligible to participate.

Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to exterior work that significantly improves the appearance of facades and other visible sections of housing exteriors. Priority will be given to projects that restore a building’s historic appearance and enhance the visual street appeal.

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT
including but not necessarily limited to:
Exterior scraping, caulking and painting
Window repair (new screens, broken glass repair, glazing, etc.)
Minor siding, trim and repair or replace shutters
Board replacement in porches, stairs or ramps
Replacement of windows and doors
Cleanup, brush/junk removal
Weather stripping
Extensive siding and trim repair or replacement
Porch or wheelchair ramp construction
Foundation repair (visible)

Improvements such as sidewalks, fences and landscaping may be eligible if part of a larger project, and shall be considered on a case by case basis.

PROJECT APPLICATION

The City of Cambridge application form and any required attachments or supporting information must be submitted in its entirety for the project to be considered.

Properties within the Cambridge Historic Preservation District must first get approval from the Cambridge Historic Preservation Commission and then the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for final approval/rejection. (This process includes approvals sought by DHCD personnel from the Maryland Historical Trust and the DHCD Codes Administration office).

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APPLICATION REVIEW

Application packets must be submitted to the City of Cambridge Economic Development Department. Once received, applications will be reviewed by the designated Cambridge Façade Improvement Program Committee for:

- ✓ A recommendation on local approval/rejection
 - ✓ Submission to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for final approval/rejection. This step in the process also includes approvals led by DHCD personnel from the Maryland Historical Trust and the DHCD Codes Administration office
- Get form at:

https://mht.maryland.gov/documents/PDF/projectreview/Compliance_Forms_Projectreview.pdf

PROJECT FUNDING LIMITS AND GUIDELINES

Owner occupied - provides 50 percent funding reimbursement (limit \$7,500)

- Grants are awarded for eligible, owner occupied property owners within the Sustainable Community Area for projects with a total cost of at least \$500 and up to \$15,000 (for a maximum reimbursement level of \$7,500).
- No funds are provided in advance of project completion. All invoices for the entire project must be paid by the grantee and then submitted to the city for reimbursement at the eligible percentage rate. **Receipts for cash payments will not be eligible for reimbursement.** The city will request reimbursement from the state. Upon approval, work must begin within 90 days and be completed within 180 days. Final receipts must be submitted within 45 days of completion to ensure program funds are efficiently distributed. *Please note that getting checks cut at the state level may take some time.*
- The city reserves the right and authority to approve projects outside of the project-cost limits and eligibility rules outlined above, on a case-by-case basis at its discretion and with prior consent of Mayor and Council and DHCD.

All work must comply with all applicable permitting and code requirements. Funds will not be reimbursed until the permits office of Department of Public Works confirms in writing that all necessary permits have been obtained and all work has been completed according to code. Failure to do so could result in a rejection of any reimbursement request.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cambridge Economic Development

410-221-6074

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