



URBAN CENTER/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Note to state, regional, and local economic developers: If you intend to use this program as part of an overall incentive offer to a company, you must submit a written request to National Grid's Economic Development Department in advance of the project announcement.

Program Summary

National Grid's Upstate New York service territory includes approximately seventy-five (75) urban centers with populations above 10,000. In addition to a rising demand for urban living spawned by "empty nesters" and accelerated commercial district improvements created by urban university investments in their neighborhoods, many communities are evaluating sustainable growth opportunities and enhancements to the downtown core that presents a unique opportunity to utilize excess utility infrastructure and create new employment and capital investment in Upstate New York cities. This program is designed to assist these metro centers in the Company's service territory achieve revitalization goals, increase property tax bases, and promote "smart growth" and sustainable investment in central business districts and commercial corridors.

The **Urban Center/Commercial District Revitalization Program** provides matching grants of up to \$250,000 to local municipalities, development corporations, universities, and medical complexes undertaking major neighborhood revitalization projects. Eligible projects must be endorsed by appropriate municipal authorities, and tied to specific investments in vacant/underutilized structures, neighborhoods and sites within the urban core. Projects that capitalize on the distinctive character of historic city neighborhoods focus on energy efficiency strategies and demonstrate an aggressive approach toward attracting retail pioneers and reclaiming vacant structures will be considered favorably in the application process.

Application requests may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Electric and gas infrastructure and lighting installations associated with pedestrian corridor improvements, site preparation, and building rehabilitation.
- The development of pre-construction drawings to advance an urban redesign plan associated with lighting improvements is also eligible, to the maximum extent possible lighting designs will promote energy efficiency.
- Alternative fuel transportation infrastructure as part of a larger urban revitalization effort.

Applicants must match National Grid funding on a 3:1 basis with other public and/or private resources to obtain funds under this program.

Minimum Program Requirements: *Please review the program requirements and guidelines below prior to completing an application for funding.*

Note: Program assistance is only available to customers in good standing, located within National Grid's Upstate New York franchise territory. Applicants must be current in payments with National Grid or have executed a deferred payment agreement with the Company.

To be eligible for this program, the **applicant** must be:

- ❑ A municipality and/or its authorized development corporation; **or**
- ❑ A 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6), university, or medical complex with the endorsement of the authorized municipality where the project is taking place.

To be eligible for this program, the **project** must:

- ❑ Reside within the National Grid franchise area;
- ❑ Be located in a central business district or commercial area;
- ❑ Have existing utility infrastructure that is underutilized;
- ❑ Have a 3:1 match of other public and private funds to National Grid's dollars;
- ❑ Show specific evidence of job creation and capital investment by businesses or other economic entities attracted or retained by the project;
- ❑ Show evidence of concurrent commitment to the renovation of vacant or underutilized sites and structures within the urban core; **and**
- ❑ Reside within a city with population above 10,000.

Funding and Eligibility Guidelines

Program funding and parameters are established annually by National Grid. Grants are available on a continual basis until all funding is expended or until the end of National Grid's current rate agreement. Funding is released to a grant award recipient only after the recipient has met all conditions of the program. In all circumstances, funding should be viewed by the applicant as a reimbursement for work completed following grant approval in the form of an award letter.

The grant award recipient should expect to execute a Funding Agreement with National Grid. The Agreement will outline expectations of the grant program and the conditions for the release of funds.

Grant amounts listed are the maximum allowable award for each program. Each application is evaluated on a variety of factors, resulting in some not receiving the maximum grant award.

If you are applying to more than one program for the same project, you must indicate that clearly on the application.

Under no circumstance will funding be released after the expiration of the Company's current rate agreement or without prior written consent from National Grid.

- ❑ Program funds may only be used to offset twenty-five percent (25%) of costs (3:1 funding match required) associated with planning, design, engineering, and construction related to the enhancement of a Urban Center/Commercial District involving lighting projects.
- ❑ Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate smart growth strategies and partnerships designed to attract new investment and jobs in the urban core.

| Maximum funding per project is \$250,000. Maximum funding for municipalities with a population between 10,000-14,999 is \$100,000.

How to Apply

To apply for the Urban Center/Commercial District Revitalization Program please:

- Complete the program application online; and,
- Upload all required documentation as noted at the end of your online application.

If you need assistance in completing the application, please contact Karen Mousaw via email at Karen.Mousaw@nationalgrid.com.