

MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION

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

The service territory of National Grid, New York includes a substantial number of small to medium sized urban centers and main street corridors that possess unrealized potential and are located where National Grid often has excess utility infrastructure and capacity. This program is designed to assist communities in promoting “smart growth” and private sector investment in central business districts and commercial corridors that help their competitive viability, attract investment, and capitalize on their distinct development potential.

The Main Street Revitalization program provides matching grants to municipal and non-profit development corporations’ undertaking efforts to revitalize critical mainstreet/commercial corridors. Application requests may include the following: development of pre-construction documents that advance an existing community accepted design plan, site preparation, and construction of commercial and industrial adaptive re-use projects and renovation and rehabilitation of commercial, industrial or mixed-use buildings under 100,000 square feet. Priority projects will be sustainable and demonstrate use of green building technologies/LEED certified initiatives (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) and Greening USA’s 12 Traits of Sustainability. This program is not intended to provide funds for civic facilities, for example, sports and recreation complexes, libraries, public buildings, etc. Projects must be located in an underutilized central business district/commercial area. The building itself should be vacant or within a commercial area that has a vacancy rate of at least 50%. Projects **must** demonstrate job creation. Those that show ability to stimulate ancillary public and private investment will be reviewed favorably in the evaluation process. Applications showing commitments from public funding resources such as the Governor’s Office of Small Cities and Empire State Development are encouraged.

Minimum Program Requirements: *Please review the following program requirements and guidelines, carefully. They will help you decide whether you want to apply for this program.*

[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, 501(c)6, or 501(c)4 corporation, working in tandem with a municipality and/or its Industrial Development Agency or Local Development Corporation, **or**
- Be the owner or developer of the eligible site with the endorsement of the municipality

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

- Receive electric or natural gas service from National Grid New York, **and**
- Be located in a central business district or commercial area, **and**
- Have existing electric or natural gas infrastructure that is clearly underutilized, **and**

- ❑ Show evidence of private sector job creation/retention and capital investment, **and**
- ❑ Reside in a building/site that is vacant OR within a target redevelopment area that contains a 50% vacancy rate

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 during that program year or until December 31st of the current program year. 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 the expectations of the grant program and the conditions upon which funds will be released.

Grant amounts listed are the maximum allowable award for each program. All applications are evaluated on a variety of factors. Some applications may not result in 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 December 31, 2011 without prior written consent from National Grid.

- ❑ Grant amounts will be determined based on the size of the **total** capital investment you are making in your project/facility (including energy and non-energy related investments) as follows:

<u>Total Capital Investment</u>	<u>Total Avail Funding not to Exceed:</u>
Under \$500,000	\$25,000
\$500,000 up to \$5 Million	\$50,000
\$5M – up to \$10 Million*	\$100,000
Above \$10 Million **	\$200,000

* Building clusters given priority

** Must be cluster development

- ❑ Program funds may only be used to offset 50% of costs (1:1 funding match required)
- ❑ Projects demonstrating *Greening USA's* “12 Steps of Sustainability” or receiving some level of LEED certification are more likely to be fully funded.
- ❑ Show evidence that a comprehensive assessment of energy efficiency measures were fully investigated and any completed or pending applications for energy efficiency incentives.

How to Apply

To apply for the Main Street Revitalization please:

Complete and sign the program application;

- Attach the required documentation as noted at the end of the application; and,
- Submit all of the above to:
 - Karen Mousaw
 - Economic Development Program Coordinator
 - National Grid
 - 300 Erie Boulevard West
 - Syracuse, NY 13202

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