



URBAN CENTER/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT 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 six major urban centers with populations above 50,000. A rising demand for urban living spawned by “empty nesters” and accelerated commercial district improvements created by urban university investments in their neighborhoods present a unique opportunity to utilize excess utility infrastructure and create new employment and capital investment in upstate New York’s cities. This program is designed to assist the larger urban centers in National Grid New York’s service territory achieve their revitalization goals, increase property tax bases, and promote “smartgrowth” investment in central business districts and commercial corridors.

The Urban Center/Commercial District Revitalization program provides matching grants of up to \$1,000,000 over a two-year period to municipalities, local 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 and sites within the urban core. Projects that capitalize on the distinctive character of historic city neighborhoods 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 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.

Applicants must demonstrate a 3:1 match of public and other private resources to obtain funds under this program.

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 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, **and**
- ❑ Be located in a central business district or commercial area, **and**
- ❑ Have existing utility infrastructure that is underutilized, **and**
- ❑ Have a 3:1 match of other public and private funds to National Grid's dollars, **and**
- ❑ Show specific evidence of job creation and capital investment by businesses or other economic entities attracted or retained by the project, **and**
- ❑ Show evidence of concurrent commitment to the renovation of vacant or underutilized sites and structures within the urban core , **and**
- ❑ Reside within a Community Development Block grant entitlement city (population above 50,000)

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 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.

- ❑ Program funds may only be used to offset 33% of costs (3:1 funding match required) associated with planning, design, engineering, and construction costs 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.

- Due to the size of the grants available through this program, the maximum limit for each eligible city is \$1,000,000.

How to Apply

To apply for the Urban Center/Commercial District 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.