

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is my property in the Downtown Arts District?

See map [here](#)

<http://www.richmondgov.com/planninganddevelopmentreview/FacadeImprovement.aspx>

Is my property in the City Old & Historic District?

See map [here](#)

<http://www.richmondgov.com/CommissionArchitecturalReview/index.aspx>

to determine whether your property is in the Old & Historic District; the Broad Street Old & Historic District stretches along Broad St from Belvidere to 1st Street.

What are eligible costs for a project?

The program will fund projects that significantly improve the visual appearance of the entire facade from the street. Suitable projects include uncovering and restoring historical facades, removing existing facade materials and replacing them with more appropriate and attractive designs and materials, architectural lighting of the facade, and other detailing which leads to a substantially enhanced appearance of the building.

Although not eligible for funding on their own, the following may be funded as part of a more comprehensive facade improvement; windows, doors, exterior cleaning, tuck pointing, painting, shutters, and gutters. Design and permit fees associated with the construction are also eligible project costs.

Costs that are **NOT** eligible include: improvements in progress or completed prior to program application and preliminary approval, new construction, repair or replacement of a roof, work to an alley facade, routine maintenance that is not part of an eligible facade improvement project, billboards and signage, awnings, mechanicals and HVAC systems, interior work, security systems, trash and mechanical enclosures, fencing, parking areas, landscaping, and paving.

What if I want to do a larger renovation that includes ineligible costs?

That's great! But only eligible costs incurred for a facade renovation can be covered by this grant. The larger project will need to go through all existing permitting processes in addition to the Façade Improvement Program. More information about building permits can be found [here](#)

<http://www.richmondgov.com/planninganddevelopmentreview/PermitsInspectionsBureau.aspx>

Some of these costs may be eligible under the Jackson Ward CARE Zone administered by the Economic Development Authority, more information available [here](#)

<http://www.yesrichmondva.com/neighborhood-revitalization/Care-Zones>

Is this a competitive process or first-come, first-serve?

The Façade Improvement Program is first-come, first-serve – applications will be processed as they are submitted to the Department for approval. The Department will continue to accept applications until the program funds are exhausted.