



2026 Storefront Enhancement Program

Policy & Procedures

The City of Janesville through the Storefront Enhancement Program supports the maintenance and updating of commercial buildings in the City of Janesville.

Grant Criteria:

- 1) Properties must be commercial business properties located within the city boundaries of Janesville.
- 2) Applicants must have ownership interest in the property.
- 3) Applicant must not have started or completed work on the proposed project. Phase work is permitted. Work must not have started or completed on phase in which the grant funds have been requested.
- 4) Only one application per applicant will be accepted.
- 5) Proposed improvements must comply with the Minnesota State Building Code for rehabilitation work and all applicable building permits must be obtained.
- 6) Exterior improvements include, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Windows and doors
 - b. Painting, sandblasting, tuck-pointing and other façade improvements
 - c. Exterior lighting
 - d. Landscaping
 - e. Awnings
- 7) Ineligible improvements include interior improvements, refinancing prior debt, working capital, inventory financing and improvements that are removable. Living or apartment quarters are also ineligible for program participation.
- 8) Applications will not be considered if applicant currently has unpaid assessments, utilities, revolving loan fund payments or has been in violation of City ordinance(s) within the past 5 years.

Types of Grants:

All applications will be considered.

- 1) Storefront Enhancement Grant may reimburse up to 50% of the project cost with a maximum award of \$5,000.
 - A. Preference will be given to work done on the front of the building as it faces a street or avenue.
 - B. Preference will be given to applicants who have not received Janesville EDA Storefront Enhancement Program funds within the past three years.

- C. The building must be used or potentially used for a commercial business.
 - D. Primary consideration will be given to projects necessary to maintain the integrity of the structure; recommended projects include tuck-pointing, repair and/or replacement of windows, painting, etc.
 - E. Secondary consideration will be given to projects that improve the appearance of the exterior of the building: awnings, exterior lighting, landscaping, signs, etc.
- 2) Commercial Building Demolition Grant may reimburse up to 50% of the project costs with a maximum award of \$5,000.

Review:

Grant applications will be received until 4pm Friday, May 1st, 2026. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The grant review process involves examination of application including plans and specifications of the project by the Janesville Economic Development Authority who will make the final decision on awards. The Janesville Economic Development Authority has sole discretion on approval of grant funds for each project or portion thereof.

Any City of Janesville employee or volunteer will recuse themselves from the consideration process with respect to any application for a grant with which they have a conflict of interest or which might reasonably present the appearance of conflict of interest.

Grant Distribution:

- 1) Work must be completed by November 30th, 2026.
- 2) Grants will be paid to applicant following:
 - A. Inspection of completed project by the Janesville Building Inspector if work requires a building permit.
 - B. Material and Labor receipts along with proof of payment by applicant submitted to Janesville City Hall or to the cityplanner@janesvillemn.gov email.