



FY26 Fort Dodge Challenge Grant Pre-Application

Main Street Fort Dodge is currently seeking pre-applications for Main Street Iowa's Challenge Grant Program. Pre-applications are due by Friday, July 25 at noon to be reviewed and scored by Main Street Fort Dodge's grant selection committee. Only one application per community is allowed. The applicant with the highest scoring pre-application will be invited to help Main Street Fort Dodge prepare a full Challenge Grant Application to be submitted to Main Street Iowa by no later than August 27. Main Street Fort Dodge will be notified in November if our local project was selected for funding. If awarded, the project will need to be completed within 24 months of grant award notification.

Main Street Iowa's Challenge Grant is a program that supports brick and mortar projects within Iowa's Main Street Districts. Eligible projects can include, but are not limited to: façade improvements (any building face), interior rehabilitation (first floor commercial and upper story housing), and structural repairs or building system improvements. A project may be a single specific phase of a larger rehab. The maximum grant request is \$100,000, while the minimum grant request is \$25,000. A dollar-for-dollar (1:1) match is required for all projects. The Challenge Grant is a reimbursement type of grant—meaning that after a project is completed and paid for by the owner, then a reimbursement request may be made to Main Street Iowa showing proof of work and payment. Projects may NOT commence until contracts have been signed. This is a summary of Main Street Iowa's Challenge Grant only—for additional information, please visit MainStreetFD.org for scoring criteria and other details.

Completed pre-applications must be submitted by no later than **noon on July 25, 2025** to be considered. Applications must be submitted electronically by email to director@mainstreetfd.org or on a flash drive delivered to the Main Street Fort Dodge office at 24 N 9th St.

Pre-Application—General Information:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Building Address: _____ # of Stories in Building : _____

Year Built: _____ If vacant, How long: _____ Sq. footage _____ Sq. footage upper _____

Existing Use(s) on First Floor: _____

Future Use on First floor(s) _____

Existing Use(s) on Upper Floor(s): _____ # of residential units if applicable _____

Future Use on Upper Floor(s) _____



MAIN STREET FORT DODGE
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Project Readiness and Scope

Summarize your project and how the Challenge Grant funds will be utilized (500 character maximum):

Project timeline (anticipated dates for project milestones):

Estimated overall project cost: _____

Estimated breakout of overall project cost (a detailed budget will be required for the full application):

Anticipated Challenge Grant grant request (range is \$25,000-\$100,000): _____

Do you acknowledge that the money received will be in the form of reimbursed funds? _____

Estimated local property owner cash match (match must be at least 1:1) _____

Anticipated form of local property owner cash match (owner equity, bank loan, etc.). _____

Has your local property owner match been secured?: _____ If not, what is your anticipated timeline for securing this match?



Describe the existing building:

Give a detailed description of the building, its history, and its significance to the district. Note the structure's current use/condition and any significant architectural features. (10 points) **2,500 character maximum**

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Describe the proposed building improvement:

Identify the scope of work to be completed within the grant period and whether it is part of a larger project. Explain adherence to historic preservation and environmental standards. (30 points) **2,500 character maximum**

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Summarize the project budget, contingency plans, intended use of grant funds, in-kind work, etc. Identify the financial justification for the project and any project partners (30 points) **2,500 character maximum**

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Design Appropriateness

Have professional designs been created for the exterior improvements proposed? YES or NO

If YES, please include as part of this pre-application. If NO, who is creating these designs, and what is the anticipated timeline for completion? _____

Do you acknowledge that the following documents will apply to your project: Circle YES or NO.

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: nps.gov/orgs/1739/secretary-standards-treatment-historic-properties.htm
- Iowa Green Streets: opportunityiowa.gov/community/energy/iowa-green-streets

Please summarize how your project comply with these standards:

Do you acknowledge that the following document will apply to your project: Circle YES or NO.

- City of Fort Dodge's Downtown Zoning Ordinance: fortdodgeiowa.org/egov/documents/1719944463_5928.pdf

Summarize how your project will comply with the City of Fort Dodge's Zoning Ordinance.

Name of contractor(s) that will be completing the work:

If contractor(s) have not yet been identified, this is okay—but do you acknowledge that all contractors used must be licensed and registered with the City of Fort Dodge prior to beginning work? YES or NO

Please attach any available photographs, renderings, or other materials that would strengthen your application. These will be required for the full Challenge Grant application.

