



## 2026 MAIN STREET CHALLENGE GRANT

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

Proposal Deadline: 7:00 PM Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

Email completed form AND 5 photos to [info@the-district.org](mailto:info@the-district.org)

Main Street Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority have announced the availability of Main Street Iowa Challenge Grants. This funding is meant to assist with improving the physical and economic health of the designated Main Street districts. This state appropriation will allow Main Street Iowa to offer matching Challenge Grants to participating communities for building rehab, addition, or construction.

All Main Street Iowa districts, including Czech Village New Bohemia Main Street District (The District), are eligible for the Main Street Challenge Grant funds. The District may apply on behalf of ONE project, chosen by The District's Design Committee, from the proposals received. Eligible projects must be within the main street district's boundary. If awarded, funds will be reimbursed to the selected grantee by The District upon completion.

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- **Rehabilitation and/or restoration** of significant commercial properties within the designated Main Street district. This can include, but is not limited to:
  - Façade improvements (front, rear and side)
  - Interior Rehabilitation (first floor commercial and upper story housing)
  - Structural repairs and building system improvements
  - Single specific phase of a large rehab. The project must have a specific defined focus and clearly identified scope of work, with commitment to future phases demonstrated.
  - Impactful improvements to multiple properties with a common need. Properties must be contiguous and have common ownership.

## INELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- Projects involving public government buildings or religious facilities; building demolition or deconstruction, or first floor storefront residential (including short term/overnight lodging).

Proposals will be considered based on intent to follow preservation standards, architectural significance, need, commitment to complete the project, uniqueness, and impact on the district and community.

The maximum award is \$100,000, with a minimum award of \$25,000. Each structure included as part of a multiple property application must meet the individual minimum project investment threshold of \$25,000 grant/\$50,000 minimum total investment.

**MATCH AND EXPENDITURES:** A 100-percent, dollar-for-dollar, cash match is required. No previous expenditures of any kind can be used as cash match for a project. The match requirement may include necessary project "soft" costs for professional services, i.e. architectural, engineering, or legal work directly related to the project.

Late applications will not be considered. The District is not guaranteed funding in this program. Plans must meet all local code requirements, Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and comply with the defined Iowa Green Streets criteria of IEDA.

Applicant Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Project Address:

1. Project Description: Describe the proposed project.

2. Architectural Significance:

3. How will this project benefit downtown as a whole?

4. Is there a need for this project in the market and how will it improve The District?
5. What is the current condition of the building, and why are improvements needed?
6. Will this project improve the local downtown economy by adding jobs, business growth, residences, etc.?
7. Identify any challenges that might exist in completing the project.
8. Anticipated project costs (break down components AND give the total – include quotes/bids from contractors if possible).
9. Challenge Grant request amount
10. Estimated Project Costs
11. Other sources of project funding

Please include any additional attachments, pictures, and/or renderings for your project to be considered.