

1. Will absentee owners be eligible to apply?

No. The owner must be engaged in the process of rehabilitation or sell the building to the entity willing to complete the project. Building owners of underutilized, vacant or dilapidated downtown buildings in coordination with a local nominating organization are eligible.

2. Who applies for the grant application?

The grant application must include both the building owner and a local nominating organization.

3. Are sponsor organizations required to financially contribute to the project?

No. Nominating organizations are required to help support the efforts of the building owner and the project. These organizations will define what their level of support might be in the application but are not financially obligated to contribute to the project.

4. What is the population size of community that can apply for this grant?

Properties must be located in cities with a population fewer than 50,000.

5. Is it beneficial, or is there added weight to my application if we are a Designated or Affiliate Main Street community?

Yes.

6. Is my building required to be in a geographic designated area of downtown?

Properties must be in the downtown business district or connecting corridors.

7. Is the rehabilitated building required to have a viable business once completed?

Yes. Pro-forma/financial plan and business plan must be submitted with the application by the December 20, 2021 deadline for the project to meet eligibility requirements. The plan can be expanded upon, edited, and improved as the project develops, but the initial plan must be part of the application.

8. If I received federal funding (ARPA, SPARK, USDA, CDBG, SHPO, etc.) can that be applied as a match?

Yes, as long as there is no duplication of benefit.

9. If I apply, am I automatically awarded funding?

No. There is a team at the Department of Commerce that will score and evaluate applications based on merit, project eligibility and urgent need. The latter will be moved to the top of the list to be reviewed.



10. What are the funding maximums?

Awards are anticipated at \$20 per square foot per building size, up to \$75,000, or until funds are exhausted.

11. When does the application process close?

Emergency HEAL Category

The application is open from November 8-19, 2021. Award decisions will be made by November 23, 2021. Construction must begin by February 1st, 2022.

HEAL Category

The application is open November 8 - December 20, 2021. Award decisions will be made by January 10, 2022. Projects must begin construction no later December 31, 2022 and be complete within one year of the start of construction.

12. When will funding be awarded?

Funding will be awarded upon completion of the following:

- i. Proof of matching funds,
- ii. Business and financial plans,
- iii. Ability to demonstrate the project can be completed within one year of project construction.

13. What is the grant timeline?

Project must be initiated no later than October 2022; construction must begin no later than December 2022; Project must be completed no later than December 2023.

13. Can I apply for both the Emergency HEAL and the HEAL, or will my application be rolled into the HEAL program if it isn't deemed an emergency need?

No. Emergency HEAL is only for projects that can strongly demonstrate that the building is highly likely to be a total loss if not for immediate intervention in the next two months. This must be demonstrated by architectural and engineering reports that state that the structure is at a very high risk of collapse. If this is not clearly demonstrated in the application when applying for Emergency HEAL, the application risks being not funded in either grant category. The Emergency HEAL review process is heavily weighted based on the engineering report that must be provided in order to qualify for Emergency HEAL.

