

Wheaton Façade Improvement Program

The Department of General Services, through its Office of Planning and Development (OPD) is reviving and revising its Façade Improvement Program. Through this program the County intends to actively partner with Wheaton's commercial property owners and businesses to improve and reinvest in their properties – and do so in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. The Program will reimburse up to 75% of approved costs for façade improvements. In return, property owners will grant an easement to the County to ensure the façade remains and is maintained for a specified period of time.

The scope of the program has been expanded from previous efforts. The revised program supports a greater degree of façade improvement and encourages the use of environmentally-friendly materials. Façade improvements can include surface treatments, repointing/repair, lighting, signage, canopies, glazing, plantings and greenery, and entryways. A significant change from the prior program is that participants, rather than the County, will be responsible for their façade's design and construction.

The Façade Improvement Program is being revived due to a \$350,000 Community Legacy Grant awarded to the Wheaton Redevelopment Program by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The majority of grant funds - \$225,000 - will be used to support façade improvements. In addition, the County Executive has decided to re-allocate an additional \$350,000 from the Wheaton Redevelopment Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to match the Grant. This provides a total of \$575,000 available for façade improvements through the Program.

To learn more about the program, contact:

Pete McGinnity, Manager, Business Development
Wheaton Redevelopment Program
240-777-8126 (Office)
240-832-1756 (Cell)

Email: peter.mcginny@montgomerycountymd.gov