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Seward DTR Frequently Asked Questions.

Q. Can I apply for DTR funding to fix my roof?

A. DTR funding for roofing depends on public safety factors. For example, if a roof is leaking and causing water damage within a property, that property's roof could be eligible for funding.

Q. Can I apply for DTR funding to improve my sidewalks?

A. No. The only eligible use relating to sidewalks would be if it addresses an ADA compliance issue. For example, removing a step to get into the property.

Q. Do I need to get two cost estimates? What happens if I can't?

A. Applicants should try their best to get two cost estimates from different pre-qualified contractors. These estimates do not need to be comprehensive bids, but they will be used to help determine the amount of funds to award for your project. Applications that do not contain two cost estimates will still be reviewed and considered, however, failing to provide all two may affect how well your project scores and the amount of funds awarded to you.

Q. What happens if my project is not selected?

A. Unfortunately, there is only so much funding available, and it is possible that not every project will receive an award. If your project is not selected during the first round and there is enough funding available for a second round, you may apply again.

Q. Do I have to get building permits?

A. Yes, all work must be done according to city standards, which includes applying for and receiving the appropriate building permits. This typically involves contacting the building

inspector to discuss the project and providing the City with plans and specifications to be done.

Q. Can I choose any contractor I want?

A. Yes and no. All contractors and subcontractors must be authorized to transact business in Nebraska and must comply with the Nebraska Contractor Registration Act. Furthermore, no contractor or subcontractor can be debarred, suspended, or ineligible to receive federal funds. Contractors or subcontractors can reach out to Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) to verify they are in good standing.

Q. My building is located on the corner, can I apply for funding to complete exterior work on both sides of the building?

Yes. As long as the two sides are visible to the public and not covered by another building, it would be eligible. All façade improvements would have to be reviewed and approved by SHPO.

Q. How do I know if my project is ineligible?

Ineligible projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Roof repairs that don't address the safety of public
- Painting as a single activity (Painting is only eligible if it is combined with another eligible activity)
- Murals (The supplies would be eligible, the design itself would not)
- Interior improvements (the only interior improvements that are eligible is if it is classified as a code violation and is required by the City to fix). ADA improvements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Interior improvements that would be ineligible for funding include:
 - Elevators
 - Fire Sprinkler Systems
 - Flooring
 - Paint
 - Lighting
 - Equipment/software
 - Infrastructure (i.e. water lines)
 - HVAC systems
- Sidewalk repairs
- Residential related improvements

Q. Should I include all items I think are eligible in the application?

A. DTR applicants may add everything they think may be grant eligible (i.e. Building Inspector says it's a code violation). The City will determine if an activity is truly eligible when all applications are received on April 15. If an activity is determined ineligible, the City will work with the applicant to remove any ineligible activities and modify the total project cost.

Q. How do I get reimbursed for project costs?

A. Reimbursement can happen either on a rolling basis or as a lump sum once the project has been completed. As you receive invoices, and begin paying them off, you can submit a copy of the invoice and proof of payment to the City. The City will review the invoiced work to make sure the expenses are eligible for reimbursement and the work was done in compliance with the program guidelines.

Q. I want to participate in the program, but I'm not sure I can afford the matching requirement. Is other financial assistance available.

A. We recommend you reach out to a local traditional lender in the Seward area to see what options they can provide you. If working with a traditional lender is not possible, please contact the City to learn more about other financial assistance programs that be available to you. SENDD has several Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) programs that businesses could be eligible to apply for. Contact Kelly Gentrup, (402) 475-2560, for more information.