

*The FAQ will be updated frequently, so please check regularly.*

### **How do I know if my project is eligible or competitive?**

Your OCRA [Community Liaison](#) should be your first point of contact. Once you reach out to them they can help you understand the application process as well as provide guidance towards submitting a thorough and eligible application.

### **I am interested in applying; who should I contact?**

Your OCRA [Community Liaison](#) should be your first point of contact. Once you reach out to them they can help you understand the program and navigate the application process.

### **Are nonprofits eligible applicants for the program?**

Yes, nonprofits are welcomed and encouraged to participate. However, the Main Street organization must be serving as lead applicant and fiscal agents in the collaboration.

### **Are projects requesting less than \$5,000 eligible?**

No, projects requesting less than \$5,000 are not eligible for the program.

### **What is the maximum amount I can request?**

The maximum award amount is \$10,000.

### **My community has received a DEG award in the past can I apply but with different partners?**

Any community who has received Downtown Enhancement Grant funds since January 1, 2013 is not eligible to apply.

### **My project was previously funded through DEG/MSRP. Can I still apply?**

If you have previously had a portion of your project funded through DEG you are not eligible for additional funds. In order for your community to be eligible the project must be a new project and not directly related to a previously DEG or MSRP funded project. However none of the funds from DEG or MSRP can be used towards your match contribution of the project.

### **If we are awarded how long do we have to complete our project?**

All projects must be completed by December 1, 2017.

### **What are examples of past projects funded through the program?**

Previously funded projects are no indication of competitiveness for the current round. Creativity is encouraged, so past projects should not inhibit your ingenuity. Previously funded projects have include alley activations, murals, streetscapes, and various other downtown enhancing projects.

**Are previous projects indicators of what will be funded this round?**

No, these were the most competitive projects during that funding round. Each community is encouraged to come up with a project that is designed to build on the unique assets in your community. If you have questions about your project contact your OCRA [Community Liaison](#).

**Would applying for the DEG disqualify us from applying for other OCRA grants?**

A DEG award would not disqualify anyone from any other OCRA funds.

**I am applying for 2016 Stellar Communities; can I still apply for DEG?**

You can still apply for the 2016 Stellar Communities Designation and 2016 DEG. 2013-2015 Stellar Designees are not eligible for 2016 DEG.

**What can be considered as matching funds for DEG?**

There is a 1:1.5 local match requirement. For each DEG dollar requested, the match must be one and one half dollar. Of that, at least one dollar must be cash while the balance can be certain in-kind contributions (listed in the application).

**When I count in-kind match spent from up to 18 months before the DEG application, can local dollars used as local match from another grant be counted?**

Yes, but only as in-kind and as long as the match meets the rest of the eligibility requirements, the local dollars have been spent with documentation of the expenditure, and the earlier project is clearly part of the proposed DEG project. For example, if the applicant received a \$10,000 grant for land acquisition and matched it with \$5,000 from local sources, the local \$5,000 can be counted as in-kind DEG match if it is the land being used for the DEG project.

**Can the grant be used to cover any professional or administrative fees?**

Professional fees are not eligible costs. However administrative costs up to 10% of the grant amount can be used as in-kind match.

**Would my local philanthropic foundation count for philanthropic match?**

Philanthropic foundations, especially community foundations, are strongly encouraged to participate and provide cash match. Such match will be favorably factored into the scoring of the grant application.

**Would construction plans need to be completed prior to submittal of the application?**

Construction planning does not have to be completed prior to application. It can be included in the budget, but it must be paid from local funds. However, there must be a clear project scope of work included in the application.