

PRESS RELEASE
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**Lewis County Planning and Community Development Launches
\$125,000 NYF Downtown Lyons Falls Small Project Fund**

LOWVILLE, NY – Lewis County Planning and Community Development (LCPCD) announces the launch of the Downtown Lyons Falls Small Project Fund, a \$125,000 grant funding program made possible through the New York Forward (NYF) initiative. The Fund provides matching grant awards to support transformative building improvements within Downtown Lyons Falls, limited to the NYF target area.

Lyons Falls Mayor Donna Dolhof shared her enthusiasm, saying, “We’re overjoyed to unveil this incredible opportunity for Lyons Falls! The possibilities for transformation are limitless, and we’re excited to witness the remarkable positive effects these projects will bring to our village and the entire community.”

Eligible applicants include commercial property owners, business owners, not for profit organizations, and entrepreneurs with properties within the downtown target area. The program is designed to catalyze visible improvements, strengthen the downtown economy and bring long-term sustainability to the Village of Lyons Falls’ historic productive core.

Types of Eligible Projects Include:

Building Renovations: Facade improvements, new storefronts, interior commercial space upgrades, roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling systems, accessibility upgrades, and more.

Upper-Floor Residential Renovations: Creating or improving apartments in commercial buildings.

Business Equipment: Purchase of permanent machinery and equipment essential for business operations (e.g., ovens for a bakery, specialized equipment for a manufacturer).

Minor Exterior Enhancements: Signage, awnings, and painting projects to improve visual appeal.

Informational Session and Support:

A Public Informational Session, with Drop-In Q & A, will take place at the Lyons Falls Library on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 3:30 PM - 7 PM.

One-on-one application guidance appointments can be reserved with Megan Krokowski at megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov or 315-376-5423. Applicants must bring a draft application for review and discussion.

Program Timeline:

Program Opens: April 17, 2025

Public Info Session: April 30, 2025

Application Deadline: May 31, 2025

Review with HCR: June 13, 2025

Awards Announced: August 18, 2025

Lewis County Planning and Community Development is thrilled to spearhead this transformative initiative, focused on driving business growth and retention, increasing local spending, cultivating community pride, and revitalizing Downtown Lyons Falls. This effort seeks to ignite development, enhance resilience, and pave the way for a vibrant and prosperous future for our community.

To learn more about the Downtown Lyons Falls Small Project Fund, required forms, or to submit an online application, visit the Lewis County Planning & Community

Development Website at: <https://lewiscountyny.gov/departments/downtown-lyons-falls-small-project-fund/>

Lewis County residents are invited to Like and Follow the Lewis County, NY Facebook page to receive timely updates on County events, initiatives, and the work of the Lewis County Legislators.

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