

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lewis County Relaunches \$125,000 NYF Downtown Lyons Falls Small Project Fund
Second Round Open Now – Expanded Support Available for Applicants**

LOWVILLE, NY – Lewis County Planning and Community Development (LCPCD) is excited to announce the relaunch of the Downtown Lyons Falls Small Project Fund, a \$125,000 grant program made possible through the New York Forward (NYF) initiative. This funding opportunity provides matching grants (75/25) to support impactful improvements to commercial and mixed-use buildings within the NY Forward target area of Downtown Lyons Falls.

While no complete applications were submitted during the first round, the County and the Village are committed to ensuring this important funding is fully utilized to help strengthen and revitalize the Lyons Falls downtown core. Additional office hours, individualized support, and technical assistance will be provided throughout this second round to help applicants successfully complete their submissions.

Mayor Donna Dolhof expressed her renewed enthusiasm for the program: *“We remain incredibly excited about the potential of this grant fund. We know the interest is out there, and we want to work one-on-one with local property and business owners to bring their ideas to life and spark the transformation our community deserves.”*

Types of Eligible Projects Include:

Building Renovations: Façade 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.

New Builds: Commercial or mixed-use building construction may be eligible pending HCR approval.

Work Session and Support:

Lewis County Planning & Community Development staff will be offering office hours at the **Lyons Falls Library** to assist potential applicants with questions and walk through the applications with interested parties. Private working sessions can also be scheduled upon request. A flyer with confirmed dates and times for the Work Sessions will be available soon.

We'll also be available at the **FINAL Food Truck Friday of 2025** on **September 12, 2025**, starting at **5:00 PM**, for any last-minute questions, application reviews, or additional assistance.

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

Program Timeline:

Program Opens: July 31, 2025

Work Sessions: Beginning the week of August 5, 2025

Application Deadline: October 3, 2025

Review with HCR: By October 17, 2025

Awards Announced: November 17, 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.

The Downtown Lyons Falls Small Project Fund is designed to create visible improvements, strengthen local businesses, support housing development, and build community pride. This initiative supports long-term economic resilience and aligns with the Village's vision for a vibrant and welcoming downtown.

To access the application, program details, or download required forms, visit: <https://lewiscountyny.gov/departments/downtown-lyons-falls-small-project-fund/>

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