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CONTACT: Megan Krokowski
Community Development Specialist
Lewis County Planning & Community Development
(315) 376-5423 | megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov

Lewis County Launches Round 5 of the Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program

LOWVILLE, NY – Lewis County is enthused to launch Round 5 of the Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program, an initiative designed to incentivize property owners, non-profits, business owners, and municipalities to perform façade improvements and streetscape enhancements in downtown areas across Lewis County. This ongoing investment by the Lewis County Board of Legislators will build on previous funding rounds to support continued community revitalization efforts.

Lewis County's downtown districts and public spaces are the heart of community life, serving as vibrant hubs for gatherings, special events, and small business success. To strengthen the character and appeal of its villages and hamlets, the county's Façade & Streetscape Improvement Program is dedicated to revitalization through public and private investment. This program offers up to 75/25 matching funds for eligible improvements to mixed-use and commercial buildings, as well as streetscape enhancements. These efforts aim to boost business growth, enhance tourism, stimulate local spending, and reduce blighted and vacant properties, driving the revitalization of Lewis County's communities

"The success of this program demonstrates how strategic investments can quickly strengthen our community. The visible progress in our downtowns and commercial areas is drawing new investment and helping to create a place where future generations of Lewis County families will be proud to call home," said Timothy Hunt, County Manager.

Façade improvement funds are available to property owners, non-profits, and businesses with mixed-use or commercial buildings in the downtown areas of hamlets or villages. Eligible projects must comply with local zoning regulations and design standards. Improvements can include, but are not limited to, enhancements to entryways, signage, windows, doors, exterior paint, and lighting.

Municipalities are encouraged to apply for streetscape improvement funds to enhance walkability and the overall aesthetics of their village or hamlet. Eligible projects may include gateway and wayfinding signage, street furniture, landscaping, and public art installations.

The Façade & Streetscape Program is a competitive funding opportunity. Applications for Round 5 are now open and must be submitted by **December 31, 2025**. To enhance the application process for both applicants and the review committee, it is strongly recommended that applicants participate in the Pre-Application process this year.

The brief Pre-Application Form, available on the Lewis County Planning & Community Development website, collects preliminary project details to verify eligibility and alignment with program goals. After submission, Planning & Community Development staff will contact project sponsors to confirm eligibility and provide guidance for the full application process.

For the first five (5) eligible Pre-Applications focused on façade improvements, staff will collaborate with InSite Architecture to provide free project renderings and refine the scope of work in accordance with the Lewis County Downtown Design Guidelines. This service is offered at no cost to applicants and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

While participation in the Pre-Application process is optional, doing so offers significant advantages. Applicants who complete this step will receive additional points during the review process for their submission. The Pre-Application deadline is **October 24, 2025**. Renderings and scope-of-work packages will be delivered to participants by November 21, 2025, giving applicants several weeks to obtain cost estimates. A list of Lewis County contractors who can provide quotes for projects is available on the Lewis County Planning & Community Development website.

Final applications will be reviewed by a committee of representatives from the Board of Legislators, the Department of Planning & Community Development, the County Manager's Office, Naturally Lewis, and the Lewis County Historical Society. Award notifications will be issued on or around January 30, 2025.

To learn more about the Lewis County Façade & Streetscape Improvement Program or to apply, visit the Lewis County Planning & Community Development website: <https://lewiscountyny.gov/departments/planning-and-community-development/facade-and-streetscape-improvement-program/>

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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