



Mini-Matching Grant

The Swissvale Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO) has an exciting opportunity to assist Swissvale home and business owners with exterior improvement projects to boost the curb appeal of their homes and/or businesses. SEDCO is accepting applications from current Swissvale home and business owners to receive up to 50% of the cost of an exterior project with a maximum payout of \$150.

Why curb appeal?

- A recent study found that good landscaping can add 7 to 15% to your home's value.
- Experts consistently say that landscaping and curb appeal projects have the best return on investment.
- Exterior improvements can improve safety for the home or business owner and the street.
- Neighborhoods with beautiful exteriors create a more welcoming environment for visitors and potential new home or business owners.
- Many exterior projects can help the interior of the home or business as well. For instance, Energy Star qualified windows and doors can cut energy bills by as much as 15%.

Potential projects could include but are not limited to the following ideas.

- New windows and doors will make your house or business sparkle and can save you heating costs. As an additional bonus, they can make your home or business safer.
- Outside lamps can beautify a lawn, while lighted areas tend to be safer at night.
- Window boxes can instantly brighten the outside of the house or business.
- Replaced hardware (numbers, handles, etc.) and upgraded mailboxes will change the look of your house or business. House numbers that stand out are important for emergency personnel.
- Trees improve air quality, home values, and the health of individuals.
- A new coat of paint instantly updates the look of your house or business.
- A neighbor-friendly fence around your yard protects your property and maintains the sense of neighborhood.
- Rusty gutters and downspout replacement protects your foundation, keeps your house looking fresh, and diminishes puddles of water that attract mosquitoes.
- A new railing, the addition of flower urns, or a new coat of paint to your porch or entryway helps create an appealing first impression.



The intent of this matching grant program is to:

- Encourage the investment of private money in Swissvale
- Improve home and business value, beautify the community, and improve safety in Swissvale

Criteria:

- Permanent improvement projects that will help to increase home or building value
- Projects that will increase the overall safety of a home and/or street
- Projects that will increase the overall aesthetics of Swissvale

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a home owner in an owner-occupied residence in Swissvale or a business owner in Swissvale.
- Project must be approved by SEDCO before work begins.
- SEDCO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject applications that, in the opinion of the organization, do not meet the intent and criteria of the program.

Additional Requirements:

- An application must be completed and approved by SEDCO before work begins on the project.
- **Maximum funds that can be requested are 50% of the project total, up to a maximum of \$150.** The home or business owner is responsible for the other 50% or more.
- Funds will be **released after** the home or business owner pays full price and produces sufficient record of the money paid (ex. receipt or copy of check) and project completion.
- Before and after pictures are to be submitted with receipts or proof of payment. SEDCO reserves the right to use these photos to promote the Curb Appeal Program.
- Only one application per address will be accepted.
- All projects must comply with Swissvale ordinances. Compliance is the responsibility of the home or business owner. Failure to comply is the responsibility of the home or business owner. Please check with Swissvale Borough for information.
- The home or business owner assumes the responsibility for all insurance and liability of the project. SEDCO cannot be held liable.