

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**Waterford Borough Announces Expansion of
Downtown Façade Improvement Program**

WATERFORD, PA (October 24, 2019) – Building on the success of the 2018 Façade Improvement Grant Program, which was administered by Preservation Erie and provided \$13,000 to six projects in Downtown Waterford resulting in \$26,890 worth of investments, Waterford Borough has applied for and received funding from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) to continue and expand the program over the next three years.

Commercial buildings within the designated downtown boundary, which is from the center line of 5th Street to the south borough line, and from the center line of Walnut Street to the center line of Cherry Street, are eligible for these grant funds. Property owners, as well businesses in the downtown, are encouraged to apply for the grants.

These façade grants will be made on a 50/50 matching basis. Waterford Borough will provide up to 50% of the project cost as a grant with the remaining 50% of the cost being the property/business owner's responsibility. The maximum grant awarded will be \$10,000, but applicants may request as little as \$200.

Priority will be given to projects utilizing proper preservation techniques and materials. Among the categories of work eligible for grants are mortar re-pointing, gutter replacement, repainting of exterior elements, chimney repair and flashing, and cornice repair.

The deadline for applicants to apply is November 21, 2019.

Tim LaFlamme, Borough Council President, expressed his hopes for the program. “Even simple changes such as the removal of non-historic materials, or a new paint job that calls attention to a building’s original architectural details signal positive change and often stimulates similar improvements in neighboring buildings,” he noted.

In addition to the \$25,000 per year for the next three years for the Façade Improvement Grant Program, the borough was also awarded funding from ECGRA to create an Interior Improvements Grant Program, expand the existing Sidewalk Grant Program, and make improvements to the Waterford Library.

Mr. LaFlamme said, “The purpose of the program is to stimulate private investment in the downtown and create a compelling place for businesses to exist and residents and visitors to spend time.”

Grant applications are available on our website: waterfordboro.net