

DAHLONEGA 2000, INC.
DOWNTOWN PRESERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM
“ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC ASSETS”

**DOWNTOWN HISTORIC PROPERTY SPRINKLER AND WIRING SYSTEM
GRANT APPLICATION PACKAGE**

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF DOWNTOWN
DAHLONEGA’S COMMERCIAL DISTRICT ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY!*

The Sprinkler and Wiring System Program is intended to:

- stimulate investment in the preservation of Dahlonega’s historic commercial district, and
- to protect the historic architectural resources essential to the economic health of our area.

Downtown Dahlonega is the historic core of the region and serves as the seat of business, government and service for the community. With historic architecture ranging from the 1830s to the 1960s, downtown is the heart of the county. Its pedestrian focus and historic buildings invite both residents and visitors. Each downtown building has an individual character, and each building is respected for its unique features, historic appearance, significance, and impact on the district.

Dahlonega 2000 Inc. has created this Sprinkler and Wiring program and believes increased fire prevention will protect our community’s investment in these precious, irreplaceable historic resources. Our local economy and identity depend upon preservation.

GRANT AMOUNTS

Maximum grant awards are \$5,000. Dahlonega 2000, Inc., will provide a matching grant to the owner for up to 50% of the cost of the system, and the grant must be matched by the property owner with cash investment. For example, an owner’s \$10,000 sprinkler system installation could be eligible for a grant award up to \$5,000, or an owner’s \$5,000 wiring system installation could be eligible for a grant award up to \$2,500. The amount of the grant will be determined by the review committee based on the funds available and the number of requests under consideration.

This program is sponsored by Dahlonega 2000, Inc. with funding assistance from United Community Bank and Appalachian Community Bank.

Project construction must not begin until grant awards have been officially announced by Dahlonega 2000, Inc. Funding may be limited and grant application projects may be competitive. Projects approved for grant awards will receive payment as a reimbursement to the property owner when a paid invoice is presented to Dahlonega 2000, Inc. (see payment guidelines for details).

GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- The amount of the grant will be determined by the review committee based on the funds available and the number of requests under consideration.
- The grant program operates in Downtown Dahlonega. Specifically the B-3 zoned historic central business district is designated as the priority program area for the period of 2009-2015; CBD zoned properties may be considered if no applications are received from B-3 properties.
- Eligible applicants are commercial property owners, as well as business owners (with the owner's permission). Only commercial buildings more than 50 years old are eligible to apply. Government buildings and national franchises are not eligible to apply.
- Project improvements funded with the grants are to remain in place and maintained in good order. If improvements are removed or not maintained for a minimum of 10 years, Dahlonega 2000, Inc. may at its discretion seek reimbursement for the full amount of the grant funds that were paid to the participant.
- All property taxes, licenses, and permits must be current at all times during the minimum 10 year maintenance period.
- Grant applicants are fully responsible for all aspects of the project, any relationships with contractors and suppliers, and securing all necessary permit approvals before beginning construction. Cost of permitting cannot be part of the grant funding.

Qualified Projects:

1. preserve the architectural integrity of the structure to the extent possible;
2. meet all local and state governmental rules, regulations and laws;

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

- Contact: Joel Cordle, DDA/Dahlonega 2000 Director, 706-864-6133 for an application package.
- Complete the application forms along with copies of any required permits.
- A complete application along with a licensed contractor's written estimate for the sprinkler or wiring system should be returned to the DDA/Dahlonega 2000 office, 465 Riley Road, Dahlonega, GA, 30533.
- Deadlines: Completed applications will be accepted monthly and must be postmarked or delivered by the first day of each month.

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED AND SELECTED

- Applications are reviewed in the order received.
- Only completed application packages are reviewed; incomplete applications will be returned.
- The review committee will review the application package for completeness, determine eligibility, and provide Dahlonega 2000, Inc., with priority recommendations based on a standardized point grading system. The Dahlonega 2000, Inc. board reviews applications for each cycle, and grant award notices are mailed to the applicants.

PROJECT START AND COMPLETION

- The project must begin within 90 days of the award notice. Work must not be started by or on behalf of the applicant prior to the date of the grant award; such beginning disqualifies an applicant for grant consideration.
- The project must be completed within 6 months of the grant award notice. Projects that fail to be completed during the 6 month time frame may reapply for funding; however, funding is not guaranteed.

PAYMENT OF GRANT AWARDS

Payment of grant awards will be made as reimbursements for project expenses. All expenses must be documented. In order to receive reimbursement for the expenses the property owner who has received a grant must provide Dahlonga 2000, Inc. with the following:

- a. documentation that the project has been completed, including final contractor invoices and cancelled checks along with a final total of expenses.
- b. a copy of the building permit and a copy of the building inspector's final report;
- c. a site visit to confirm that the project was completed and that all work was done in compliance with approved plans;
- d. the owner's written commitment to maintain project improvements for a minimum of 10 years (obligation follows titled if transferred to new owner).

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