



CAPITALIZE ALBANY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2025

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Seventh Round City of Albany Small Business Façade Improvement Program Application Window Opens
Now Accepting Applications, Matching Grant Program Reopens For City Of Albany Small Business Owners To Reinvest And Grow

ALBANY- Applications are now available as part of the City of Albany Small Business Façade Improvement Program's Round seven funding window with matching grants being made available to support small business owners citywide. The program can provide matching grants to assist eligible small businesses and not-for-profits with up to \$10,000 for exterior renovations.

For an application and the program's guidelines business owners can contact the City's economic development organization Capitalize Albany Corporation at development@CapitalizeAlbany.com, or visit www.CapitalizeAlbany.com/Grants. Grant applications are due at 3 p.m. on May 14, 2025.

"I am excited we are offering another round of façade improvement grants to small businesses," said City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. "Making a seventh round of funding available allows our small businesses to further thrive and participate in the ongoing revitalization that is occurring in neighborhoods across the City. Thank you Capitalize Albany, the Albany Community Development Agency, and the City of Albany Capital Resource Corporation for continuing to make this program possible."

An announcement was made outside the Copper Crow restaurant and bar located at 904 Broadway in Albany's warehouse district. A previous grant awardee, the Copper Crow received program funding to assist with the replacement of its exterior awning on the North side of the building which was in a state of disrepair.

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“With the matching grant we were able to enhance our building’s exterior significantly, making it more vibrant and welcoming to our guests at such a crucial time for the restaurant,” **said Copper Crow owner Jason Pierce**. “Thank you to all those involved in making this program possible, I look forward to seeing its ongoing impact in this neighborhood and across the city.”

Previous rounds of the Small Business Façade Improvement Program have been tremendously successful. Since 2018 more than 50 City of Albany businesses throughout 16 different Albany neighborhoods and commercial districts have received matching grant awards to support owners’ reinvestments into their properties. To date, the program has leveraged more than \$725,000.00 in private investment. The program is made possible by the City of Albany Capital Resource Corporation and the Albany Community Development Agency and is administered by Capitalize Albany Corporation.

"I encourage all Albany-based small business owners to apply for the Small Business Facade Improvement Program," said Senator Patricia Fahy (D—Albany). "This creative and critical program provides small businesses with funds that can be used to support facade improvements and create a more welcoming environment. Our small businesses are the backbone of our economy here in the Capital Region, and this program can help transform their storefronts and by extension, our communities and neighborhoods."

“The Albany Community Development Agency is excited to be working with Capitalize Albany on this additional seventh -round funding opportunity for small businesses to improve their properties,” **said ACDA Director of Community Development Mick Foley**. “The expertise and relationships that they have with small businesses throughout the City will continue to further this program's success.”

“This is crucial programming for small businesses across the City,” **said Capitalize Albany president Ashley Mohl**. “The program gives business owners the support needed to reinvest — strengthening commercial districts and providing opportunities for new neighborhood investment citywide. We are grateful to the Albany Community Development Agency and the City of Albany Capital Resource Corporation for continuing support of this program and local businesses.”

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Since 2016 Capitalize Albany has designed and administered several grant programs including the Small Business Façade Improvement Program. Across its administered programs the Corporation has made grant awards totaling more than \$2.4 million to assist small businesses and organizations throughout the City of Albany. More than 90 percent of this funding has been awarded within Albany Community Development Agency's Neighborhood Strategy Areas (NSAs) and Qualified Census Tracts. These programs have leveraged more than \$3.3 million in new, private investment throughout the Capital City.

The Facade Program is not only designed to support and provide critical assistance to small businesses citywide — the program encourages new investment in City of Albany identified NSAs and the creation of low barrier to entry level jobs for City of Albany and Capital Region residents. In an effort to increase employment opportunities for local residents the City of Albany's office of Youth & Workforce Services has been available to work with awarded applicants on identifying localized talent for their expanding small businesses.

The current application window is open as of April 1 and will close on May 14 at 3 p.m. Details regarding eligible applicants and improvements can be found in the Program Guidelines. An overview of improvements or renovations eligible to receive support include decorative or functional enhancements such as exterior signs, lighting, energy conservation, windows, awnings, storefronts and entrances, doors, brickwork, painting, repair to decorative details, cornices, correction of code violations, removal of non-historic materials, and upgrades of blighted buildings. Grants can also support renovations to improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Improvements to interiors, parking lots, or sidewalks are not eligible improvements.

"I commend the City of Albany and Capitalize Albany's continued dedication to developing innovative incentive programs to attract new businesses while supporting existing ones, the Small Business Façade Improvement Program has been an effective initiative for our City," said executive director of the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District Georgette Steffens. "With new residential and commercial development happening Downtown, this program is a fantastic way for small businesses to capitalize on their success while playing a role in the

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resurgence and vibrancy of downtown Albany.”

“This is a strategic investment for the city that will bring long-term benefits right back to the City’s economic health,” said executive director of the Central Avenue Business Improvement District Anthony Capece. “It is often overlooked that when local businesses make investments in their property, they tend to stay in place and often will then hire new or additional employees. As businesses grow, the City’s commercial and sales taxes grow and thus the tax base expands, which can reduce the overall tax burden on residential property owners. So we thank Mayor Sheehan and encourage Central Avenue businesses to take advantage of this important opportunity.”

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About Capitalize Albany Corporation: A catalyst for economic growth, Capitalize Albany Corporation facilitates transformational development projects, serving as the City of Albany’s economic development organization. A registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization implementing programs and resources to create, retain, and attract business in the City of Albany. www.capitalizealbany.com.

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