



CITY OF BIDDEFORD
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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City and Heart of Biddeford to Host Workshop on Downtown Improvement and Business Assistance Program

BIDDEFORD — The City of Biddeford’s Planning and Development Department will collaborate with Heart of Biddeford’s Entrepreneurs Group for a one-hour workshop on the 2019 Downtown Improvement and Business Assistance Program. The free workshop, sponsored by Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 15 at Think Tank in Pepperell Center (40 Main Street) and will feature the program’s administrators, Linda Waters, Community Development Coordinator, and Brad Favreau, Economic Development Coordinator.

The purpose of the Downtown Improvement and Business Assistance Program is to enhance the exterior façade of downtown buildings, make certain eligible interior improvements, and/or help building owners achieve and maintain Code compliance. This program is restricted to commercial buildings in Biddeford’s downtown core.

Grants that are available through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program may be used only for work “that eliminates code violations that are detrimental to health and safety of potential occupants.” This year, grants may also be available to businesses that create jobs for low- to moderate- income individuals. Businesses may apply for a maximum of \$30,000, and a dollar-for-dollar match by the applicant is required.

In addition to the grant program, Business Assistance Loan Funding is also available for a broad variety of projects, but applicants must meet a number of lender requirements. Projects such as storefront improvements, exterior lighting and restoration of historic appearance may be considered, with the loans administered by the Southern Maine Finance Authority.

“By partnering with Heart of Biddeford for this in-depth workshop on the program, we hope that entrepreneurs in our community will gain a better understanding of the resources available to assist them as they make Biddeford a home for their business,” Favreau said.

Interested applicants for the Downtown Improvement and Business Assistance Program are encouraged to attend Thursday’s workshop or contact Favreau at brad.favreau@biddefordmaine.org or by phone at 207-571-1612 for additional information about the program.

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