



Big Impact Grant (B.I.G.)

Grants to Privately Owned Large Properties *Special Community Involvement Requirements*

The Oswego Renaissance Association offer Matching Funds (up to \$5,000) to owners for exterior upgrades of properties that have a disproportionately Big Impact on the neighborhood: these can include a single blighted "at risk" property, large commercial buildings or multifamily properties that are located in Residential Neighborhoods. These are matching grants designed to transform privately owned buildings, properties or spaces that have a disproportionate impact in the surrounding neighborhood. The main criterion for a property having a Big Impact is whether or not its improvement will result in a substantial and important change** for the neighborhood.

Only a few BIG grants are awarded per year. Contact the Oswego Renaissance Association (oswegorenaissance@gmail.com) or call the ORA at 315-216-4338 to see if funds are available before applying for a Big Impact Grant. Buildings must be in one of 4 neighborhood Target Zones for eligibility.

The applicant must complete Part I and II of the Neighborhood Pride Grant application. However, in order for an application to be competitive, **the owner must enlist the support and engagement of at least 5 households (including themselves) who live on the same street and block (see Pride Grant form)**. Priority for funding will be given to proposals that include resident input into the project. Since the property in question should have a large effect on the entire street, the owner should solicit input from neighbors for ideas on what could be done to the exterior of the property to enhance the neighborhood as a whole.

A second, additional way to strengthen the application is to have neighbors apply for a Renaissance Block Challenge Grant (see www.oswegonyonline.com) for individual home improvements, in the same year. This is highly encouraged.

What is meant by Matching Funds?

Matching funds means that the ORA will match 1 dollar to every 1 dollar the owner spends on upgrading the property (before tax). Thus, an owner provides \$2000 in receipts for work, the ORA grant is \$1000. If the owner seeks the maximum matching award (\$5,000), the project would need to be \$10,000 (or more). The ORA cannot reimburse sales tax or service tax of any kind. Thus, any sales tax on receipts cannot be counted towards the match.

What types of projects and activities ARE eligible?

Projects that are visible from the street, and beautify and project *Pride of Ownership*: Painting, Porch Upgrades or Repair, Soffit Repair, Exterior Lights, Landscaping, and much more.

What types of projects and activities are NOT eligible?

Blacktop, expanding parking (and removing greenspace) or repair with substandard materials (i.e.; 4X4 pressure treated porch posts to replace turned wood porch posts, use of pressure-treated or simple framing lumber of exterior finishes, porch flooring, steps, etc).

** examples include a blighted property (whether owner occupied or rental) on otherwise strong street; or a property which is unlikely to be marketable to an owner occupant without intervention, on a street which otherwise has a high percentage of owner occupancy. Priority for applications is given to blocks which already have shown evidence of resident commitment through completion of block challenge grants.