



# Suffolk County

## JumpSMART Small Business, Arts, Recreation & Tourism Downtown Investment Program FAQs



### 1. Introduction

#### a. Program Overview

Suffolk County is committed to supporting the growth of small businesses and the strength and vibrancy of traditional “Main Streets” or downtowns through strategic investments in projects or activities, promotions, support systems or services. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our downtowns represent the heart of our communities. Accordingly, the county has established the JumpSMART Small Business Downtown Investment Program to provide funding to support downtown growth and to help local businesses and institutions to remain economically competitive.

The JumpSMART program will provide a funding source for projects and programs that support small businesses, strengthen local arts and cultural organizations, promote tourism and enhance workforce development efforts in conjunction with the County’s existing JumpStart program which provides capital investments to local municipalities for downtown revitalization.

### 2. Applying for the Grant

#### a. Who Can Apply?

Funding is available to private or not-for-profit organizations.

#### b. Is there a minimum funding request amount?

The minimum funding request is \$100,000.

#### c. When are applications due?

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on 9/29/2023.

#### d. How long will the grant contract last?

It is expected that awards will be announced in the fall of 2023. Contract term will depend on the scope of the project, and will be determined in discussion with the successful applicants.

**e. Is there a cap on the funding level or number of applications per program/organization or company?**

No.

**f. If a submission is too expansive, will the proposal be considered for a smaller adjusted amount? Or, will it be discarded if the funding request is too much?**

All proposals will be considered. It will be the discretion of the evaluation committee to make funding determinations (see Section k). Proposals may be scaled down.

**g. How many awards will be made this year?**

A specific number of awards has not been identified. The goal is to make a wide variety of awards that positively impact downtowns and small businesses in Suffolk County.

**h. What criteria will be used to evaluate projects?**

Projects will be evaluated according to their:

- Proximity to downtown business districts and/or mass transit
- Ability to enhance regional or local tourism, particularly in downtown areas
- Demonstrated potential for long-term community and economic growth benefits
- General impact of project on the community
- Ability to enhance an organization's long-term viability and economic competitiveness
- Incorporation of best practices relating to sustainability, green building techniques, and resiliency
- Impacts on water quality through wastewater infrastructure upgrades
- Cultural impacts, such as creation of a "Place of Interest"
- Ability to improve workforce training and development

**i. How can I apply?**

Interested applicants can [apply online](#). Applications should include:

- Organizational history
- Project description, including location
- Proposed project purpose & need
- Timeline & budget
- Anticipated impacts and outcomes of the project both for the organization and the community

If it is determined that more information is needed, applicants will be notified. The evaluation committee (See Section k) may request further materials and/or an interview with the applicant to further understand the project proposal.

**j. Applicant Assistance**

If applicants have questions regarding completion of this grant program or application, please contact the Department of Economic Development and Planning at [jumpsmart@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:jumpsmart@suffolkcountyny.gov)

**k. What is the review process?**

An evaluation committee comprising the County Executive, the Presiding Officer, the Minority Leader, the Commissioner of Economic Development & Planning, and a small business advocate, or their designees, will make award determinations in consultation with the planning professionals from the Department of Economic Development and Planning.