

# Understanding the Process behind the

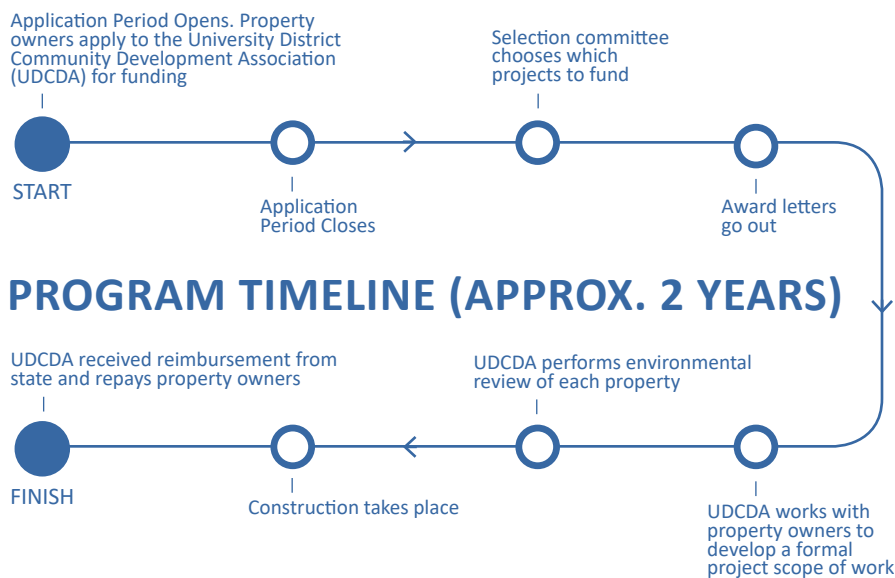
# Buffalo Main Streets Initiative (BMSI)



## BACKGROUND INFO

The **Buffalo Main Streets Initiative (BMSI)** is a program offered through Empire State Development and NYS Homes and Community Renewal that aims to assist in the revitalization of neighborhood commercial districts through targeted investments such as façade renovations, interior commercial and residential building upgrades, and streetscape work.

The Better Buffalo Fund is a reimbursement program, meaning **all project costs must be paid up front by the property owner**. These costs will then be **reimbursed up to 75%** of the total project cost by the State.



## ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS:

- Health and Safety Improvements
  - *Fire alarms, sprinklers, fire escape repair, correcting code violations.*
- Accessibility Improvements:
  - *Ramps, elevators, widening entryways, automatic doors.*
- Energy Efficiency Improvements:
  - *Insulation, HVAC system upgrades, water-conservation improvements.*
- Façade Restoration:
  - *Preservation projects, reopening storefronts, removing solid security gates, signs, awnings, re-pointing brick, window repair.*
- Residential Improvements:
  - *Convert vacant upper stories into apartments, correct code violations, update existing apartments.*
- Prepare Commercial Spaces for Tenants:
  - *Drywall, electrical, plumbing.*

## INELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS:

- Acquisition
- New construction
- Capitalizing a revolving loan fund
- Improvements to churches, synagogues, and other religious structures
- Improvements to municipally-owned buildings used for municipal purposes
- Non-permanent fixtures, furnishings, appliances, electronics, security systems and business equipment
- Site work or ancillary activities including septic systems or laterals, grading,
- Parking lots, sidewalks, landscaping, fences, free standing signs
- General maintenance

## SELECTION COMMITTEE

A selection committee composed of University District Community Development Association staff, residents, business owners, design professionals, and other community stakeholders will be convened.

Feasible and eligible projects are reviewed by selection committee and are funded based on their total score, beginning with the highest score and moving down the list until all available funding is awarded.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Project is viable as demonstrated in application
- Project creates a highly visible change to the Bailey Avenue streetscape
- Project involves preservation/restoration of historically significant property
- Project is consistent with Buffalo Green Code (Zoning Code)
- Project is mixed-use in nature (residential & commercial)
- Project leverages significant private resources