

New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative Chinatown Building Upgrade Fund

Information Session

Public Works
Partners

29 July 2026

Agenda

- About the Fund
- Application Process
- Timeline and Next Steps
- Q&A

About the Fund

Who We Are



Wellington Chen, 陳作舟
Chinatown Partnership
Executive Director



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Public Works Partners
Director

Program Overview

New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative Chinatown Building Upgrade Fund provides grants to support property improvements that strengthen and revitalize Chinatown.

Eligible Activities	Funding Limits
Building Exterior Improvements: Storefront/facade improvements	\$50,000 – \$100,000
ADA Accessibility: Access ramps, lifts, compliant doorways, emergency exits	\$10,000 – \$25,000
Small Projects: Permanently affixed awnings and signage (including address numbers), lighting, security cameras, plaques	\$10,000 – \$15,000

Program Overview

Ineligible Activities

Routine maintenance and repairs that address deferred maintenance are not eligible expenses under this program. Projects will be scored based on how they create a visible, transformative improvement beyond standard upkeep.



Match Requirement

A minimum **20% match** of the total project cost is required. Associated architectural, engineering, and environmental costs must constitute less than 18% of the award.

- Match must be comprised of eligible project costs only
- Match calculated on a building-by-building basis
- In-kind contributions are not eligible

Who Can Apply

Property Owners

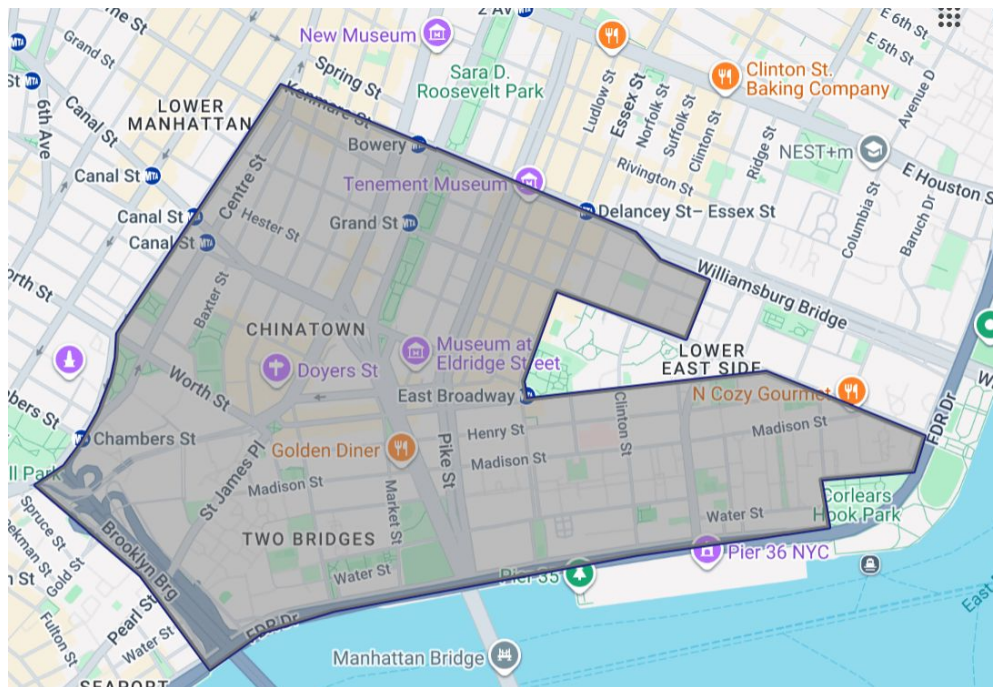
Individuals, for-profit or non-profit entities that own eligible property in the catchment area.

Lessees

With written owner permission and at least three years remaining on lease after project completion.

Municipally owned or operated buildings as well as structures owned by religious or private membership-based organizations with no public access or benefits, are not eligible for the BUF program. For properties owned by membership-based organizations that are partially leased to an eligible business or tenant (e.g., a ground-floor storefront), that lessee may still apply for funding, provided all other eligibility requirements are met. Properties used solely by the membership-based organization without public access or benefit remain ineligible.

Catchment Area Boundaries



For your property to be eligible for the grant, it must be located within the Chinatown DRI Catchment Area.

The Chinatown DRI Catchment Area is bounded by Delancey Street to the north, Centre Street to the west, the Brooklyn Bridge to the south, and Essex and Ridge Streets to the east. Properties abutting the DRI Catchment Area boundary are considered ineligible and will not be considered for a BUF grant.



How We Score Applicants

- **Project Readiness**
- Physical Impact
- Economic Impact
- Quality of Life / Accessibility
- DRI Priorities

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Application Process

How To Apply

Complete the application form, which is organized into three sections.

1. Applicant Information: General information about you and the proposed project
2. Project Description: Project description, including scope, narrative, and budget
3. Program Compliance Certification

Once your eligibility has been confirmed, submit supporting documents.

- ☐ Budget Projection and Cost Breakdown
- ☐ Proof of Ownership or Lease
- ☐ Project Plans, Renderings, or Specifications
- ☐ Contractor Bids or Quotes
- ☐ Photographs of Existing Property



Completing the Application Form

<https://tinyurl.com/BUFgrant>

Chinatown DRI Building Upgrade Fund Application

Thank you for your interest in the Chinatown Downtown Revitalization Initiative Building Upgrade Fund.

Manhattan's Chinatown is a cultural home and economic engine for generations of residents, workers, and visitors from across the region and the world. Through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), the Chinatown Partnership LDC is proud to administer the Building Upgrade Fund (BUF), a new program designed to respond directly to community-identified needs. This catalytic project will build on the neighborhood's rich heritage and support the small businesses that define our community's unique character.

The fund supports property improvements that strengthen and revitalize Chinatown. Eligible projects include building exterior improvements, ADA accessibility, and small projects such as signage improvements. Please note that routine maintenance and repairs that address deferred maintenance are not eligible expenses under this program. Please complete and submit a single application, even if you are applying for funding for multiple eligible activities.

The application contains three sections:

- Part 1: Applicant Information
- Part 2: Project Description
- Part 3: Program Compliance Certification

You are welcome to leave this form and return at any time before the deadline to complete your application. Your progress will be saved automatically. To protect your privacy, your email address will not be collected automatically or linked to your submission.

PROJECT CATEGORY

Please indicate your project type and complete the relevant sections below. You may apply for funding for more than one eligible activity through a single application, however, **total funding is limited to a maximum of \$100,000 per building.**

Project Type (select all that apply) *

- ☒ Building Exterior Improvements (\$50K-\$100K)
- ☐ ADA Accessibility (\$10K-\$25K)
- ☐ Small Projects (\$10K-\$15K)

Building Exterior Improvements (select all that apply)

Deferred maintenance and basic repairs are not eligible.

- ☐ Storefront renovation
- ☐ Facade restoration
- ☐ Window upgrades or replacement as part of a broader facade improvement
- ☐ Exterior door upgrades that improve accessibility, appearance, or storefront design
- ☐ Exterior painting or cladding (standalone repainting or routine upkeep is not eligible unless part of a larger transformative exterior improvement)
- ☐ Other: _____



Timeline and Next Steps

Important Dates

Key Dates

- Application Deadline: Labor Day, September 7th
- Award Notification: Fall 2026

Application Support

- Info Session #2: Tuesday, August 11, 2026, from 2:00–4:00 PM
- CPLDC Office Hours
 - Wednesday, August 19, from 2:00–4:00 PM
 - Wednesday, August 26, from 2:00–4:00 PM
 - Location: Welcome to Chinatown Hub

Q&A

Thank you!

For any additional questions, please email chinatownDRI@chinatownpartnership.org