



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Herald Argus, 362-2166
News-Dispatch, 872-8511
Whats New LaPorte

FROM: LaPorte Urban Enterprise Zone

DATE: January 19, 2011

RE: 2011 Grant Programs for Local Businesses

The LaPorte Urban Enterprise Zone (LPUEA) is now accepting applications for this year's grant programs. The first program, "Downtown La Porte Looking Up" will help fund rehabilitation of windows in upper floors of downtown business buildings located in the "specialty retail, art & entertainment" area. Applications will be considered for matching grants of up to \$10,000 per property address.

The second program is the Downtown LaPorte Façade Improvement Program. This program will help fund more extensive rehabilitation of building facades within the targeted area above. Applications will be considered for matching grants of up to \$15,000 per property address.

The third grant, Business Grant Program, will fund exterior improvements to eligible zone businesses through a matching grant up to \$5,000.00. Eligible rehabilitation activities include: doors, windows, signage, fencing, painting, sidewalks, awnings, and landscaping. Roofing and roof repairs are not an eligible activity.

The Board of Directors has allocated \$10,000 for the "Downtown LaPorte Looking Up" grant, \$15,000 for the Downtown Laporte Façade Improvement Program, and \$17,500 for the Business Grant Program. Funding is competitive and subject to the committee and Board approval. The applications will be evaluated on job creation, number of EZ residents employed, structural/maintenance improvements vs. cosmetic improvements, location and overall project costs. All property taxes and zone contributions must be current.

Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2011 with grant awards announced by May 31, 2011 for the Façade and Window grant applications. The Business Grant Applications are awarded on a monthly basis until funds are completely expended. Business Grant Applications are due the 3rd of each month. Applications are available on the city website, www.cityoflaporte.com, under Business, then LPUEA or through the Office of Community Development and Planning. Any questions regarding the grants and applications can be directed to Laura Gropp, at 362-8260. Send completed applications to, LaPorte Urban Enterprise Association, 801 Michigan Avenue, LaPorte, IN 46350.