

VILLAGE of GOUVERNEUR **SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

Ronald McDougall, Mayor
Charles Newvine, Deputy Mayor
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(Revised April 2016)

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to improve neighborhood conditions in Gouverneur by promoting repair or replacement of existing sidewalks. Where the sidewalks have deteriorated or become damaged by tree roots or other forces, this activity will eliminate the hazardous conditions that create a potential liability for the adjacent property owners and the community as a whole.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE ?

Assistance is available for any property located within the Village. All applications must be filed by the property owner. Proof of ownership will be required in the form of a deed, land contract or life tenancy agreement recorded in the Office of the County Clerk. In all cases, real estate taxes and charges for water and sewer must be paid for the property where improvements are being considered and all other properties owned by the applicant in the Village.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Owner-Occupied Properties

Financial assistance is available to cover a portion of the cost of eligible improvements made under this program up to a maximum of \$5,000 for each property. That assistance will vary depending on the income and household size of the applicant.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Low Income Owner-Occupants

Owner-occupants with income under the following limits may be eligible for grants to cover 75% of the cost of replacing their sidewalks. Low interest loans are available to cover the balance of the eligible cost.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Household Income</u>
1	\$20,650
2	\$23,600
3	\$26,550
4	\$29,450
5	\$31,850
6	\$34,200
7	\$36,550
8 or more	\$38,900

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Other Owner-Occupants

Owner-occupants with income above these limits may be eligible for grants to cover 50% of the cost of replacing their sidewalks. Low interest loans are available to cover the balance of the eligible cost.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Commercial Properties

Owners of commercial properties (including rental apartments) may be eligible for grants to cover 50% of the cost of replacing their sidewalks up to a maximum of \$5,000 for each property. The properties on the north side of Main Street between Clinton and Gordon Streets are excluded because those sidewalks have been reconstructed by the New York State Department of Transportation.

LOAN TERMS

Low interest loans are available to cover the balance of the cost of eligible improvements in all properties where assistance is provided under this program. All loans will be repaid in monthly installments with interest at 3.0% APR.

The maximum loan term will be determined by the size of each loan as detailed in the following chart:

<u>Loan Amount</u>	<u>Loan Term</u>
\$101 – 500	1 year
\$501 - 1,000	2 years
\$1,001 - 1,500	3 years
\$1,501 - 2,000	4 years
more than \$2,000	5 years

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT WORK IS NEEDED, and HOW DO I FIND A CONTRACTOR TO WORK ON MY SIDEWALK ?

The Village has prepared standard details and specifications for sidewalks to be repaired or replaced under this program. All work must comply with those details.

After the DPW Clerk has determined that a property owner may be eligible for assistance, the applicant must prepare a sketch plan outlining the proposed project and secure approval of the plan by the Code Enforcement Officer or Superintendent of Public Works.

Each applicant must collect at least 3 written proposals from local contractors on forms provided by the DPW Clerk. Those bid proposals are then included in the Application for Assistance, which must be reviewed and approved by the Mayor's Sidewalk Committee before any work can begin under this program.

CAN I DO SOME WORK MYSELF ?

Yes. Owners who can satisfy the Code Enforcement Officer or the Superintendent of Public Works that they are capable of doing their own work will be permitted to work on their own property with assistance under this program.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE ?

You can email Dawn at: dmccollum@villageofgouverneurny.gov . You can also go to the Department of Public Works Office, located in the basement of the Municipal Building and ask for Dawn McCollum, DPW Clerk, or call 287-0110.

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