

## **B. COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE GRANT PROGRAM (excerpt)**

The Community Enterprise Grant (CE) Program provides grant funds to assist in innovative solutions to problems faced by micro-businesses, promote business façade programs and make streetscape improvements in downtown and village areas. Assistance to businesses may be in the form of grants or loans at the discretion of the community.

**1. Threshold Criteria and Program Requirements:** CE Program funds will be distributed through an annual grant application selection process.

### **(a) Eligible Activities:**

**(i)** Eligible activities under the Micro-Enterprise Grant/Loan category are grants or loans to for-profit businesses, façade grants to for-profit or non-profit businesses for exterior improvements, including signage, painting, siding, awnings, lighting, display windows and other approved exterior improvements **(interior improvements are not allowed)** and streetscapes including pocket parks, benches, street lighting, tree plantings, signage, traffic calming improvements, sidewalks and other approved improvements; eligible planning activities necessary to complete the Project Development Phase. **Sewer, water, storm drainage, parking, roads or streets and other infrastructure improvements and buildings solely for residential use are not eligible. All streetscape improvements must take place on publicly owned property.**

**(b) Downtown Revitalization Program Prohibition** - Communities applying for a CE grant may not apply for, receive, or benefit from a Downtown Revitalization Program (DR) grant in the same program year.

**(c) Maximum CE Grant Amount: \$150,000** - Applicants may apply to address one or any combination of eligible activities listed in Section H (1) (a) above but are limited to a total of \$150,000 in CE funds.

**(d) Maximum Amount of Community Enterprise Grant/Loan Assistance to Businesses: \$25,000**

### **(e) Project Benefit:**

**(i) Micro-Enterprise Grant/Loan:** Existing or developing businesses that have, or will have five or fewer employees, one of whom owns the enterprise, and whose family income is LMI will meet the project benefit. Employees are not considered in meeting project benefit.

**(ii) Business Facade Grants:** Project benefit will be met when exterior improvements and signage on an existing business take place in a designated slum/blight area, or documentation exists that a business qualifies under a spot blight basis.