



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DETROIT TO DESIGNATE NEW REVITALIZATION CORRIDORS**

DETROIT - The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (ONCR) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) today for community organizations interested in applying for designation as **ReFresh Detroit!** districts.

The ONCR will designate five new commercial corridors as **ReFresh Detroit!** districts, eligible to receive \$45,000 in façade matching grants. **ReFresh Detroit!** districts may receive one-to-one matching grants for façade and exterior structure rehabilitation to improve the physical condition and aesthetic appearance of their commercial corridors. The grant duration is from July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010.

Since ONCR's inception in 2002, the program has leveraged more than \$101 million in private investment in 12 targeted Detroit commercial corridors. ONCR has completed 230 facade improvements for small business owners. Akila McAllister, director of the ONCR noted "while the façade improvements have contributed to an improved look of the commercial corridors, they also have helped the corridors attract new businesses, increasing the shopping opportunities and complementing the residential developments in the neighborhoods. "In all," McAllister added, "211 new businesses have opened and 700 jobs have been created in the designated districts."

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The RFP and applications for **ReFresh Detroit!** districts are available for pick-up beginning today at the ONCR office. Applications may be picked up Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Application materials will be available on the City of Detroit website at [www.detroitmi.gov](http://www.detroitmi.gov) in the Office of Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization section. The deadline to submit applications is Monday, April 13, 2009.

Neighborhood commercial corridors located within the City of Detroit may submit applications. Although a single organization may initiate the application process, applications should reflect a collaborative effort among neighborhood stakeholders. Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend a pre-proposal Q & A at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 18 in the ONCR office, located in the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department, 65 Cadillac Square, Suite 2300 (downtown Detroit). All questions about the program and the application process will be answered at that time. To register for the Pre-Proposal Q & A, call 313-224-4155.

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