

Pine River commercial rehab area extended; grants available

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The commercial target area for the Pine River Small Cities Development Program has been extended.

Three commercial rehabilitation grants are still available for businesses in the city of Pine River. Remaining funds are limited and restricted to a target area. A new expanded target area has been extended to all businesses one block east and west of Highway 371 within city limits. These Highway 371 businesses now have the opportunity to take part in this exciting rehab program.

Businesses on one block either side of Barclay Avenue, from Highway 371 to the Pine River, are still eligible to apply.

The Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is looking for building owners who would like to complete essential health and safety upgrades to their commercial property. Qualifying rehab includes health and safety improvements such as roof and foundation repair and floor and ceiling improvements. Energy efficiency upgrades also qualify, such as new windows, doors and furnace. Additional grant money is available from Happy Dancing Turtle for qualifying energy upgrades, and Minnesota Power is offering free energy audits as a double bonus.

The Small Cities Development Program (SBDC) grant pays for up to 50 percent of rehab costs with a \$25,000 maximum. For information, contact the Cass County EDC at (218) 947-7522.

The SBDC grant was awarded to the city of Pine River and is being administered by the EDC. The EDC is a public-private partnership that provides technical assistance for businesses to help create jobs and capital investment in Cass County. The organization is supported by Cass County, memberships and fees for service. To get involved in the EDC, contact any member or call the office in Backus at (218) 947-7522.