

2025-26 Safety Rebate Program Downtown Rock Island Special Service Area



Keep your business safe

The Safety Enhancement Rebate Program is designed to provide rebates for safety enhancements to a property, business or space surrounding them. The goal of the program is to increase safety in the City of Rock Island's Downtown Special Service Area (SSA). The **Downtown Rock Island Special Service Area** is the funding source used to provide rebates for safety enhancements on commercial or residential property within its boundaries. The Safety Rebate Program is administered by the Rock Island Downtown Alliance, which manages Downtown SSA programs in partnership with the City of Rock Island.

Rebate Amounts

The maximum rebate amount is \$1,000 for projects granted conditional approval. Rebates are awarded after work is approved by the Downtown Alliance, completed in the allotted time, paid in full and all necessary documentation has been submitted to the Downtown Alliance. Applications will be considered once submitted within the Safety Rebate Program timeline and will be awarded until all the funding is designated. All applications must meet the guidelines outlined and are subject to review and approval by the Downtown Alliance.

Applicants that have begun or completed a project prior to approval from the Downtown Alliance are ineligible to receive Safety Rebate funds. Projects that do not include a public-way component, such as security cameras only installed in the interior of a building, are ineligible to receive Safety Rebate funds.

- **1:1 rebate up to \$1,000 for:**
 - Security cameras with recording and video storage capabilities (at least one camera must face the public way)
 - Exterior lighting, including motion-sensor lighting
 - Project funding includes installation of the product, **not ongoing maintenance or subscription costs**

Applications will be considered in the order they are received until all the Safety Rebate Program funding is disbursed for the fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Rebate awards will be based on the merit and design of the project. To maximize the number of eligible projects that receive assistance, the Downtown Alliance reserves the right to award a rebate at an amount less than the allowable maximum. Maximum assistance is determined by need, and the Downtown Alliance reserves the right to prioritize applications based on the proposed safety benefits to the downtown.

Eligible Properties: SSA Boundaries

Only property owners or tenants within the boundaries of the Downtown SSA are eligible for rebates through the Safety Rebate Program.

Downtown Alliance Board members are eligible to participate in the Safety Rebate Program, provided they meet all other program eligibility criteria and abstain from reviewing and voting on ALL Safety Rebate Program applications during the period beginning when their application is submitted until their rebate check is approved and processed.

See the attached map of the SSA boundaries on the next page.

Eligibility & Policies

- Rebate requests will not be granted for improvements that were started before the application is received and approved.
- The application must be approved by the Downtown Alliance before work can begin. If the applicant moves ahead with the project before receiving the approval, the applicant accepts the project will not be approved for a rebate.
- All work shall be completed within a six (6) month period as allowed by City of Rock Island building permits. Any extension requests must be approved by the Downtown Alliance and City of Rock Island Building Official to remain in compliance with the terms of the rebate agreement.
- Applicants must be the entity paying for the improvements.
- If the applicant is a tenant or lessee, but not the owner of the property where the project is to take place, a notarized document from the property owner authorizing the improvements to the property is required.
- Applicants shall be in good standing with the City of Rock Island, Rock Island County, the State of Illinois and the United States Government. In good standing means the applicant is not delinquent in payment of any obligation, including taxes on unrelated properties, utility fees, fines or special assessments. To be eligible for participation in this program, applicants must submit full payment for all such items. A history of property nuisances may also be taken into consideration during the application review process.
- Applicants must have proof of the proper [Electrical Permit](#) for the improvements, as needed, and all improvements must adhere to City building and zoning requirements.
- To the extent the owner or tenant is supplying their own materials or labor for the improvements, profits and overhead are not eligible expenditures for the rebate.
- Locations of security cameras installed with assistance from the Safety Rebate Program will be shared with the Rock Island Police Department.
- Applications are considered on a rolling basis July 1 through June 30. There is no guarantee funding will be available upon request of rebate.
- If any change in ownership of the property or business participating in the Safety Rebate Program occurs during the improvements, eligibility for the Safety Rebate Program will be suspended until a meeting with the Downtown Alliance and new ownership is completed and any changes to the original application are approved in writing. There is no guarantee new ownership will be approved for the same rebate amount as the previous owner. All such applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Strong preference will be given to applicants who show the funding assistance is necessary to allow them to complete the proposed project.
- Strong preference will be given to spaces that have not previously participated in the Safety Rebate Program.
- Rebates will be applied only once per building per funding cycle on which approved enhancements are made.
- If the same improvement project already received funding from a different grant or incentive program it is ineligible for additional funding through the Safety Rebate Program.
- Improvements must remain with the property.
- If the applicant is not able to fulfill the terms of the rebate agreement, the Downtown Alliance may recapture all or a portion of the assistance granted.

Application Process

- Prospective applicants shall schedule a pre-application meeting with the Downtown Alliance to discuss their project prior to submittal.
 - The formal application process begins with the submittal of an application form, W-9 form, photographs of the existing building and proposed project area and the proposed design.
 - Applications will be evaluated by the Downtown Alliance and selection shall be made at the sole discretion of the Downtown Alliance within 30 days of submittal. All rebate applications are subject to the availability of budgeted funds.
 - Final approval will be in the form of a rebate agreement approved by the Downtown Alliance.
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Rebate Request and Distribution

All improvements shall be completed as submitted in the program application. Applicants must request the rebate by submitting the following documentation to the Downtown Alliance in writing via the Rebate Request form:

- Proof of payment from the contractors/vendors involved with the project
- Copies of Certified Payroll confirming payment of Prevailing Wage
- Photographs showing the completed work
- Copies of all required City permits

After the Rebate Request has been received, the Downtown Alliance and City staff will inspect the project to verify compliance with the Program guidelines and pre-approved plans. A rebate check will then be processed and sent to the applicant after the final inspection has taken place.

Security Camera Best Practices

Focus your search on HD video systems: You should focus your search on digital systems that provide clear Internet Protocol (IP)/high definition video. Look for this type of system with cameras that have as high of a resolution as you can find. This video clarity will help you identify important details about suspects in the event that a crime occurs.

Choose a camera that filters glare: One of the common challenges with surveillance video is undesired glare. Sunlight, street lights, shiny surfaces and even your own business's lights can interfere with a clear picture. Choose an IP or analog camera that filters out as much glare as possible. Also, look for infrared cameras that will reduce the glare from the headlights of surrounding traffic. By investing in this type of camera, you won't have to alter your business's current lighting.

Consider a Panoramic-Style Camera: Panoramic-style cameras are ideal for businesses that need extensive coverage. This type of camera provides a wide view of corridors, entry points and other spaces. This is the ideal solution for a medium- to large-sized business that has ample space and multiple doors. If your business operates 24/7 and there is a considerable amount of property to secure, such as parking lots and various wings of buildings, you will be best served by investing in an ultra-wide dynamic range camera. This camera is ideal for producing clear night images that captures video across a large range of space.

Placement: Another important consideration is where to place your camera(s). Be sure to install your camera as high as possible so that they aren't able to be vandalized. When you are shopping for your surveillance system, opt for one that provides cameras that are encased within a protective enclosure, this will guard the camera from vandals as well as inclement weather.

There are 3 general types of cameras to choose from:

- **Fixed cameras:** The view is locked on to a specific area.
- **Mechanical PTZs (Pan, Tilt, Zoom):** The view can be manually adjusted by an operator over great distances but the system can only record the current area viewed.
- **Panoramic cameras:** The view can be manually adjusted by an operator over a small area and the system can record the entire area covered.

***You will want to consult with local security camera installation companies to ensure what specifications and types of cameras will be best for your property.**

***Be sure to check with your insurance provider about potential security systems discounts.**

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