



Lee - Hodge Character of Community Grant

Made possible by the Sterling Insurance Company Foundation



Sterling Insurance



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Background

The late Henry Lee and Blair Hodge

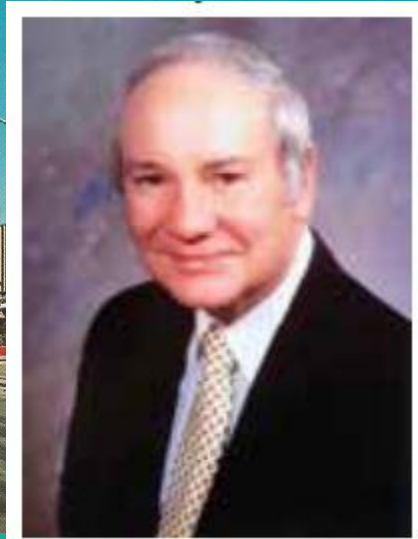
Cobleskill Main Street businessmen
(Hoagland's Pharmacy, Hodge & Aker
clothing store)

Influential in the success of Sterling
Insurance and the Cobleskill community

In honor of these two men, who
demonstrated the “character of community”,
Sterling Insurance gifted CPI \$100,000 to
invest as seed money for future grants.



Henry Lee



Blair Hodge



Purpose and Administration

To stimulate the vitality of the commercial, residential and non-profit components of both the Village & Town of Cobleskill.

Allocated fund budget announced annually in January (based on the grant investment fund's performance)

2026 grant fund budget is \$5,000

Application deadlines of March 1 and September 1



Eligibility and Benefits

Minimum award: \$500

Maximum award: 50% of the year's grant budget ($\$5,000 \times .5 = \$2,500$)

exceptions to these limits approved by the board on a case by case basis

These are reimbursable grants, not requiring matching funds.

Recipients may receive an advance of up to 50% upon approval.

Grants can cover eligible expenses incurred within the same calendar year, even if expenses were incurred before approval.

Applications may be submitted on behalf of a third party as the recipient. An award may be given retroactively for efforts that contributed to the character of our community.



Application Process

Complete the written form including

Recipient / Applicant information

Project Summary

Community Impact

Long-Term Benefit (beyond one year)

\$ Amount Requested and purpose of funds



Section 1: Recipient Basic Information

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Name of Award Recipient (Individual/Organization):

Contact Person (Applicant):

Contact Mailing Address:

Contact Phone Number:

Contact Email Address:

Type of Applicant (Check One): Individual Organization

Relationship of Award Recipient with the Village of Cobleskill community:



Section 2: Project Summary

Section 2: Project Summary

Project Name:

Date(s) for anticipated project completion or event:

Location:

Brief Description of the Project:



Section 3: Community Impact

Section 3: Community Impact

Explain the Impact of the Project on the Community:



Section 4: Long-Term Benefit

Section 4: Long-Term Benefit

How Will This Project Provide Long-Term Benefits (Beyond One Year)



Section 5: Use of Funds

Section 5: Use of Funds

Total Amount Requested: \$ _____

Describe How the Grant Funds Will Be Used (e.g., specific activities, materials, resources):

If requesting an advance, attach proof of expenditures paid that calendar year, or written justification for the need for this advance prior to project completion.

Amount requested in advance (if applicable) \$ _____



Hypothetical Example Projects

Individual Example: Residential homeowner / landlord of 1234 Main Street

Rebuild deteriorating front porch and steps.

This will enhance the aesthetic appeal of the property, fostering a sense of pride among residents and improving the overall impression of the community for visitors.

Updated properties will encourage other residents to maintain high standards of care, promoting long-term upkeep and preventing future neglect.

\$1,000 grant requested for materials to rebuild front porch including pressure treated lumber, footings and fasteners.



Hypothetical Example Projects

Organization Example: "Cobleskill Summer Fest"

Cobleskill Arts & Culture Initiative (CACI) - A (fictitious) nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing community engagement through arts, culture, and inclusive events.

The "Cobleskill Summer Fest" is an annual event in July in Veteran's Memorial Park, dedicated to celebrating community spirit. It features live music, cultural performances, games, and local vendors, to foster engagement, promote arts, and support local businesses.



"Cobleskill Summer Fest" (Continued)

Planned Enhancements for this year's event: Local artists to lead workshops. Child-friendly zone activities. Biodegradable containers and event signage. PA technology for hearing-assisted devices.

Community Impact: Increase community participation and enjoyment. Support local artisans. Boost sales for businesses through increased foot traffic. Improve accessibility.

Long-Term Benefit - Enhancing the scope, attractiveness, effectiveness and accessibility of the event for stronger future annual events.

\$2,500 grant requested for:

\$1,000: To hire musicians, artists and performers.

\$500: For supplies and activities in the child-friendly zone.

\$500: Biodegradable event supplies.

\$500: Assistive listening devices



Evaluation and Scoring

Project summary describing the nature of the project: 1 - 5 points for strength of the project description based on feasibility to complete to schedule / likelihood to achieve success.

Community Impact: 1 - 5 points The more in alignment with CPI's mission the greater the score. (*Promoting economic vitality in downtown Cobleskill*)

Long-Term Benefit: 1 - 5 points The longer the project potentially contributes to, or leads to future value to the community, the greater the score.

All eligible applicants will be ranked in order to allocate the available budget. To be eligible, must score > 2 points in each category and at least 8 points total.



Timeline of Events

Application deadlines: March 1 and September 1

Review /award dates: 2nd Thursday of March, September at CPI's regular board meeting

Applicant may attend the board meeting to provide an optional in-person pitch

May be awarded up to 50% of grant in advance of project completion with proof of expenditures paid that calendar year, or written justification for need prior to completion (submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the award meeting)

Applicant submits close-out form after project completion. Following board approval, the remaining grant funds will be issued to applicant.



How to submit your applications...

Mail to: CPI

P.O. Box 10

Cobleskill, NY 12043

Or Email to: CobleskillPartnership@gmail.com

Deadline reminders: March 1, September 1

Contact details for questions: CobleskillPartnership@gmail.com



Thank you to Sterling
Insurance Company
Foundation
for making this grant
program possible!

