



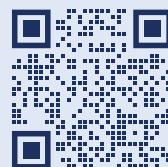
MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM REVITALIZING DOWNTOWNS THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

BACKGROUND

The Montana Main Street program is administered by the Montana Department of Commerce and is supported by a grassroots network comprised of more than 35 member communities throughout the state.

As a state coordinating program within the Main Street America® network, the MMS program awards competitive grant funding to communities focusing on planning and/or implementation projects directly related to downtown revitalization, development and historic preservation that contribute to Montana's unique sense of place.

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Webpage



PROGRAM APPLICATION

It's important to understand the MMS program and its requirements prior to application. The program may not be right for all communities at any given time; acceptance is competitive and based on community preparedness and resources available from the Montana Department of Commerce. Basic application requirements and ongoing accreditation processes include:

- A broad base of public support for the Main Street district revitalization efforts.
- Organization focused on the Main Street district revitalization efforts.
- Long-term commitment to Main Street district revitalization demonstrated through continuing submission of quarterly statistics.



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following steps are suggested for a community considering MMS; use each one as a decision point to move forward or determine alternative downtown revitalization strategies or opportunities:

- Review MMS and Main Street America® websites to access basic program information and materials at commerce.mt.gov and mainstreet.org.
- Contact MMS for additional information pertaining to the program, application cycle, process, etc.
- Convene a core group of local downtown stakeholders, community leaders, city representatives and development groups to discuss downtown revitalization.
- Invite MMS to your community to discuss the program requirements and other downtown revitalization strategies.
- Discuss the MMS program and opportunities with downtown business and property owners.
- Visit MMS communities to explore other downtown districts and talk to local leaders about MMS experiences.
- Reconvene the core group to discuss the outcomes and lessons learned from visits. Gain consensus before moving forward.
- Host a town meeting to discuss the MMS program and its benefits/expectations. Gain consensus before moving forward with the application process.
- Stay in touch with MMS throughout the process.

Photos by: Lincoln Art and Music Festival (front); Downtown Billings Association (back, top); Commerce (back, middle); Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (back, bottom).



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