



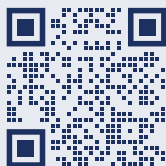
MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM REVITALIZING DOWNTOWNS THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

BACKGROUND

The Montana Main Street program (MMS) 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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PROGRAM IMPACT

Since the MMS program's inception in 2005, it has awarded more than \$1.7 million dollars in grant funds to support more than 90 projects across the state. Local MMS member communities have experienced significant social, civic, physical and economic impacts that include:

- The creation of more than 1,070 businesses and the addition of 3,150 employees.
- The completion of more than 1,900 building improvement projects leveraging more than \$4.5 million dollars in private and public investments.
- The utilization of nearly 660,000 documented volunteer hours.





MEMBER COMMUNITIES

*Butte, Glasgow, Shelby, Sheridan, Townsend, Hardin, *Kalispell, Billings, Dillon, Glendive, Lewistown, Libby, Whitehall, *Anaconda, *Great Falls, Boulder, Deer Lodge, Terry, *Helena, Cut Bank, Miles City, Hamilton, Thompson Falls, Twin Bridges, Red Lodge, Roundup, Ennis, Livingston, Baker, Ekalaka, Havre, Lincoln, Polson, Forsyth, Ronan, Sidney, Broadus, Bozeman

An asterisk designates National Main Street America® communities.

MMS IS A RESOURCE

MMS offers a variety of services and training opportunities to help build the capacity of local revitalization efforts. MMS traditionally opens competitive application rounds annually to support these local efforts. The MMS program offers technical assistance to communities striving for economic vitality while maintaining local historic integrity, quality of life and a sense of place. Such goals are best met by uniting larger community ideas and efforts with program organization, coordination and resources.

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.

Photos by: Blackfoot Valley Dispatch (front); KLJ Engineering (back, left); Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (back, center); Downtown Billings Association (back, right)