



MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

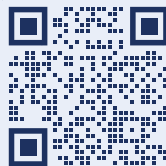
REVITALIZING DOWNTOWNS THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

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.

VISIT  WEB PAGE



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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