Main Street America is urging Congress to provide funding to support the critical work of Main Street entities that provide on-the-ground economic assistance to our nation’s downtowns.

Small businesses on Main Street continue to suffer the devastating effects of the pandemic, including decreased demand, restrictions, and fears of virus transmission. Main Street entities are providing an outsized role in supporting businesses through this crisis, but these entities face immediate budget decreases due to reduced sponsorship, municipal support, and business contributions.

The MAIN STREET COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION proposal creates a $100M competitive grant program through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in an upcoming relief package to support the vital work of Main Street coordinating programs, local Main Street programs, and small businesses in commercial districts.

The MAIN STREET COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND REVITALIZATION proposal:

- Leverages a nationwide non-profit and member network to swiftly deploy EDA funding.
- Empowers Main Street entities to respond to COVID-19 needs through locally tailored business support solutions.
- Bolsters local economic recovery efforts through a holistic, bottom-up approach that creates long-term resilience as the public health crisis continues.

The Main Street America network is comprised of:

- **Local Main Street Programs**: Embedded in over 1,800 communities, these entities provide street-level support to small businesses in accessing funding, adapting operations, business marketing and promotion, business-to-business collaboration, and community organization and leadership.

- **Coordinating Programs**: 44 state-, county-, and large city-wide entities that provide training, capacity building, and resources to local Main Street programs. These umbrella entities maintain an accountability structure through an annual designation process and standing agreements.

- **Main Street America**: a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with a 40-year track record of revitalizing commercial districts through preservation-based economic development.

- **70%** of Main Street programs are in rural areas
- **60%** of Main Street programs are in low to moderate income areas
- **46%** of Main Street programs are in Opportunity Zones.

Small businesses are turning to Main Street programs for assistance.

- **91%** of Main Street programs report the demand for their services has increased since the start of the pandemic.

Main Street programs may not be able to keep providing these essential support services.

- **2/3** of Main Street programs anticipate budget cuts in 2021.

For More Information...

Visit mainstreet.org to learn more about Main Street America.

Contact Kelly Humrichouser at khumrichouser@savingplaces.org or call 312.610.5619 to learn more about this proposal.