



Main Street America Nationally Recognized. Locally Powered.™

Being a Main Street America™ member is a mark of distinction, and represents a commitment to continual improvement, community engagement, and rigorous outcome measurement. The status that comes with being a part of this network also sends a strong message to local stakeholders, as well as city, state, and national funders. It signifies that you are part of a greater movement that has a proven track record for generating impressive economic returns, preserving community character, and celebrating local history.

Getting Started

To get started, [become a member](#) of the National Main Street Center. Membership gives you access to a wide range of tools, training materials, discounts, funding opportunities, and an invaluable network that will get you on the path to recognition as a Main Street America™ community.

Once you are a member, you are eligible to become a designated Main Street America™ community! If you are currently working with your state, county, or city Coordinating Program, your Coordinator will work with you to determine the right tier and meet the necessary requirements. Not part of a Coordinating Program yet? Find your program [here](#). In areas where this is no Coordinating Program, you may be able to be designated by NMSC directly. [Contact us to get started](#).

Please note: becoming a Main Street America recognized community does not give you access to benefits, services, or training from your local Coordinating Program. Contact your Coordinator directly to learn what services they offer and how to access them.

Main Street America™ currently consists of two tiers: Affiliate and Accredited.

Affiliate

Main Street America Affiliates™ are programs or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to the comprehensive community revitalization and are on the pathway to achieving meaningful economic, social, physical and organizational improvements in their downtown or commercial districts. Main Street America Affiliates commit to:

- Broadly engaging community stakeholders in the revitalization process;
- Working with stakeholders to identify a unified vision for success for community or district and appropriate success indicators;
- Developing diversified and sustainable funding sources to support your efforts;

Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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- Participating in available training, professional development, and networking opportunities to strengthen leadership capacity and deepen knowledge of the Main Street Approach and community revitalization field;
- Maintaining membership with the National Main Street Center.

Affiliate status is for programs, districts, or communities that are interested in learning more about the Main Street model and would like to tap into the national network's strategies and resources, as well as for those who do not have the capacity, or who are not eligible for higher levels of Main Street America designation.

In states or regions that have existing Coordinating Programs, Affiliate communities will be selected by their Coordinating Program or NMSC in consultation with existing Coordinating Program. NMSC may also independently designate Affiliates in areas where there is no Coordinating Program. [Contact us to learn more.](#)

Accredited

Being a Main Street America Accredited™ community is a mark of distinction that signifies commitment to comprehensive revitalization, community engagement, and rigorous outcome measurement. These are programs or organizations that have a proven track record of success in planning, implementing, and measuring results that align with the Main Street Approach and have met a series of rigorous [accreditation standards](#):

1. Has broad-based community support for the commercial district revitalization process, with strong support from both the public and private sectors
2. Has developed vision and mission statements relevant to community conditions and to the local Main Street program's organizational stage
3. Has a comprehensive Main Street work plan
4. Possesses an historic preservation ethic
5. Has an active board of directors and committees
6. Has an adequate operating budget
7. Has a paid professional program manager
8. Conducts a program of ongoing training for staff and volunteers
9. Reports key statistics
10. Is a current member of the Main Street America™ Network

[Learn more here](#)

Accredited programs are selected by the local Coordinating Program or by NMSC in regions where there is no Coordinating Program using the above accreditation standards. In exceptional circumstances, and where there's alignment with the relevant Coordinating Program, NMSC may designate Accredited programs in states or regions where there is an existing Coordinating Program.