

Nebraska Main Street Network

Designated Main Street Community Application Process

Step 1 Community start-up

All communities interested in becoming a designated Main Street community must be a Network or Rural Network Member for a minimum of 1-year before being allowed to submit an application for designation. To become a Network or Rural Network Member, download the form and submit payment. The membership form can be found on the Nebraska Main Street Network website at www.nebraskamainstreet.org

Step 2 Moving up to Main Street designation

- Submit a letter of application to the Nebraska Main Street Network Board of Directors that includes the following:
 - Community name and population
 - Group or organization seeking Main Street designation
 - Name of contact person and title
 - Mailing address
 - Daytime phone number and email address
- Include a map of the proposed Main Street district
- Provide a preliminary budget showing how you will fund your Main Street organization
- In concise narrative form, answer the following questions—
 1. Why does your community want to establish a Main Street program?
 2. Describe the current level of support for the Main Street program from government (city, county, state, Federal), downtown businesses, Chamber and economic development organizations, the greater business community, and citizens.
 3. In what ways do you feel that your community is able to make a long-term commitment, willingness and desire to become a designated Main Street community? Do you have an organization already in place and functional?
 4. Describe your downtown's assets (businesses, buildings, social fabric, organizations) and the historical or cultural significance of your Main Street district.
 5. List partnering organizations/agencies that will be working directly with your local Main Street organization.
 6. What are your community's major economic, physical, promotional, and organizational challenges? Why did they occur and how do they affect your Main Street district?
 7. Describe the level of community leadership and volunteerism in the community. Are there enough volunteers and leaders willing, interested and able to lead and participate in your Main Street program?
 8. What does your community expect to achieve by participating in the Main Street program?

Step 3

On-going participation requirements

- Have broad based community support for the program including partnership and collaboration with other local organizations including municipal government
- Willingness and desire to maintain Main Street designation and continue with the program for the long-term.
- Participation in ongoing visioning and strategic work plan development.
- Historic preservation ethic.
- Active board of directors and working committees.
- Operating budget and paid professional director.
- Active participation in Nebraska Main Street Network programming (requests for technical assistance and local training, attending webinars, Meeting on Main, networking activities and events, director and board retreats, etc).
- Monthly and annual reporting requirements.
- Participation in year-end program evaluation.
- Attendance at the National Main Street Center's Main Street NOW Conference