What can I do?

If your community does not have a Main Street program and you would like to learn more, visit the National Main Street Center website at www.preservationnation.org/main-street.

If your community has a Main Street program, contact your local organization to:

- Learn about volunteer opportunities
- Find local programs that assist businesses
- See events and promotions coming to your downtown
- Support your local program with a donation

Communities

1. Aledo
2. Alton
3. Batavia
4. Beardstown
5. Belleville
6. Bensenville
7. Bloomington
8. Canton
9. Carbondale
10. Chicago-Six Corners
11. Crystal Lake
12. Danville
13. Dixon
14. Dwight
15. Elgin
16. Genoa
17. Golconda
18. Hardin County
19. Jacksonville
20. Libertyville
21. Lincoln
22. Lombard
23. Macomb
24. Marengo
25. Marshall
26. Moline
27. Monmouth
28. Monticello
29. Mt. Vernon
30. Niantic
31. Pekin
32. Pittsfield
33. Pontiac
34. Prophetstown
35. Quincy
36. Rock Island
37. Silvis
38. Springfield
39. Sterling
40. Taylorville
41. Waukegan

For more information contact:

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Center for Governmental Studies
Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development
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What is the Main Street Approach®?

The Main Street Program was developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help revitalize traditional downtowns and neighborhood commercial centers. Each state has their own Main Street coordinating program. Illinois Main Street is the coordinating program for Illinois. It was founded in 1993 and serves 41 local Main Street organizations.

A Main Street program is a grassroots, volunteer-driven non-profit business. A professional executive director and a volunteer board manage the program and help volunteers carry out the projects. It is based on the belief that successful downtown revitalization takes into account all aspects of downtown. This is called the Main Street Four-Point Approach®. Its volunteers are mobilized through committees or teams that reflect the 4 points. Here is what each committee does:

1. Design—Enhances downtown’s physical environment so it is an attractive place to work, visit and live.
2. Promotion—Showcases downtown by leveraging its unique history, culture, architecture and businesses to attract visitors, customers and residents.
3. Economic Restructuring—Attracts new entrepreneurs and helps existing businesses grow by responding to present and future economic opportunities.
4. Organization—Engages and educates the community on the importance of downtown, and ensures that the local Main Street program is adequately funded, staffed and efficiently managed.

Does Main Street Work?

In 2013, Illinois Main Street downtowns gained:

- 315 full-time jobs
- 393 part-time jobs
- 172 new businesses
- 206 rehabilitation projects
- 104 public improvement projects
- 14 new construction projects
- $20.8 million in public investment
- $45.6 million in private investment