

Eligibility for TN Main Street

A requirement for TN Downtown Alumni communities is to participate in the new Certified TN Downtown Program before applying for TN Main Street unless given special permission by the TN state director.

To meet additional requirements for Tennessee Main Street designation; a community must be prepared to illustrate the following:

- A strong commitment from the municipal government and various private sector organizations to support a local Main Street™ program.
- An adequate local budget and evidence of funding commitments to fund the local program for the next three years. We request a budget for operating expenses (including salary and programming expenses) of at least \$35,000 per year for populations under 5,000 or \$50,000 per year for populations over 5,000. The revenue should be from various sources such as fundraising events, funding from the city, and donations from the community.
- A commitment by the community to hire a paid Executive Director. Communities with a population of 5,000 and more require a full-time director; population under 5,000 can hire a part-time (at least 20 hours per week) director.
- The existence of, or willingness to establish, a private independent nonprofit organization that is locally designated as the governing body and policy board for the local Main Street™ program.
- Past examples of community and economic development efforts (which may include commercial district revitalization, public spaces, building preservation, etc.) and/or participation in the TN Downtowns program. It is strongly advised that the community participates in the TN Downtowns program before applying to become a TN Main Street Community. A requirement for TN Downtown Alumni communities is to participate in the new Certified TN Downtown Program before applying for Main Street unless given special permission by the TN state director.

Eligibility for TN Main Street continued

- Community familiarity with the concepts and principles of the National Main Street Four-Point Approach. Visit www.mainstreet.org
- Architecturally or historically significant buildings within a definable traditional commercial district, which may include buildings or districts on the state or National Register of Historic Places. The program area (revitalization district) should focus on a traditional historic commercial district with a grouping of building that are at least 50 years old. The district should feature a pedestrian scale and orientation that is compact in size and has a regular pattern of sidewalks that can be comfortably walked. It should also have a critical mass of buildings, at least 2/3 of which are commercial in nature.
- An understanding of the current downtown marketplace such as basic demographics, business mix, housing units, total jobs, and market position.
- A commitment to follow the TN Main Street program guidelines and annual requirements