

# MINNESOTA MAIN STREET



## REINVESTING IN MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES

Downtowns and historic commercial districts are at the center of a community's pride and prosperity. They are economic engines and a key source of jobs, provide a defining sense of character, and act as the cultural and civic heart of a community. Building a vibrant downtown doesn't happen by accident though. It requires deliberate and attentive investment. Creating a thriving downtown district demands interest and action from stakeholders who are committed to their community's future.

## AT A GLANCE: NETWORK COMMUNITIES

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota offers two different ways for communities to join the Minnesota Main Street program and take the first steps towards downtown revitalization. Designated Minnesota Main Street Communities receive a robust set of training, tools, information, and resources to reinvigorate their commercial districts. Our Designated Minnesota Main Street Communities have broad-based support, dedicated staff and volunteers, and meet nationally defined standards.

However, we recognize that communities interested in joining the Minnesota Main Street Program have a diverse set of needs and situations. We're also proud to support the Minnesota Network Communities program, which offers many of the same resources to communities that might not have the capacity at this time to meet the Designated Program requirements.

## NETWORK COMMUNITY PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Regional workshops on pertinent topics
- Regular webinars and discussion calls
- Online resource toolkit and best practice guide
- Regional networking events
- Limited consultation services from Minnesota Main Street staff



Downtown Wabasha, MN

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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A participating community must have an organization or group that focuses on downtown/historic commercial district issues, be able to commit to participation in education and training opportunities and fulfill annual reporting requirements. Examples include a Chamber of Commerce, City Government, Economic Development Authority, or downtown nonprofit group. Communities will be required to sign a participation agreement with the Preservation Alliance and Network Communities will pay an annual participation fee of \$250.

## APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

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Network Communities applications are accepted twice per year: in the winter and in the summer.

## APPLICATION DETAILS

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A competitive application process is used to identify communities that are ready and able to advance downtown revitalization initiatives. Network Communities applicants should demonstrate the following:

- Defined downtown/commercial district
- Organizational stability
- Need for assistance
- Availability of local support and resources

## NETWORK COMMUNITIES SELECTION

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The Network Communities application is competitive. When applications are received they go to an internal committee for final recommendation. Applications are taken at the beginning of the year with new Network Communities being announced for March 1st start date. As this is a technical assistance program, no funds are awarded. Selected communities must pay an annual fee of \$250 to the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

For more information and to download the application, [click here](#).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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