

**NEW MEXICO
MAINSTREET™**
ENGAGE PEOPLE • REBUILD PLACES
REVITALIZE ECONOMIES

Biennial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

Between

**New Mexico MainStreet Program,
Los Alamos County and Los Alamos MainStreet Creative District**

The State of New Mexico's Economic Development Department seeks to increase the number of jobs and businesses, sustain and expand existing businesses, mitigate commercial leakage, support local entrepreneurs in start-ups, and improve property values within traditional and historic commercial districts. To that end, it has dedicated resources, professional assistance, and services to partnering municipalities and local MainStreet organizations representing stakeholders within the designated commercial district through the New Mexico MainStreet (NMMS), New Mexico Arts & Cultural Districts (ACD), and New Mexico MainStreet Project-Based Initiative programs which include: Frontier and Rural Communities Initiative (FRCI), Native American Communities Initiative (NACI), and Urban Neighborhood Commercial Corridors (UNCC). The partners of this Biennial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agree to dedicate collaborative resources, adopt local economic growth and revitalization tools, and establish economic development funding for operations and program implementation to restore economic vitality within the MainStreet economic redevelopment district.

New Mexico MainStreet is a designated "Main Street America" State Coordinating Program. Main Street America (MSA) is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, Inc. (NMSC), a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) is licensed and accredited annually to administer the **NMSC's Main Street Approach™** to downtown revitalization. It does this through the development of "Economic Transformation Strategies" that are implemented through comprehensive work in four broad areas known as the **Four Points: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization.**

Through the execution of this biennial MOU, the New Mexico MainStreet program establishes an economic development partnership with local, eligible communities. NMEDD, by New Mexico State Statute (New Mexico MainStreet Act 3-60B-1 to 3-60B-4 NMSA 1978, as amended 2013, and the Arts and Cultural District Act 2007), is authorized to select local partners to participate in the New Mexico MainStreet's program based on the standards and principles set forth by the MSA/NMSC when resources and legislative appropriation allows. Local partners (the local revitalization organization and the local governing body), join their resources (human, social, and financial) to directly support the economic development of the district.

As a Main Street America State Coordinating Program, NMMS provides local MainStreet organizations and their local government partners with resources, training, and technical services that enhance local culture and heritage,

and build the economic vitality of each participating community's downtown, village plaza, town center, courthouse square, historic commercial corridor, or traditional neighborhood business district.

The local government partner (municipal, county, or tribal government) financially supports community economic development work within the dedicated MainStreet district for both operations and program implementation through a service contract with the local, state-designated MainStreet organization. Since the NMMS program and its designation of local partners are established by state statute, and with the understanding that the service contract binds the local MainStreet organization to the implementation of economic development projects which have a fair-market value in exchange for funds received, local government partners remain in compliance with the anti-donation clause of the New Mexico Constitution.

The local MainStreet organization is an economic development organization comprised of district and community stakeholders, whose programs, projects, and activities enhance the local downtown economy and contribute to the quality of life of its citizens. The organization builds local partnerships to leverage resources and buy-in for the revitalization of the district.

This MOU commits partners to the criteria defined in New Mexico MainStreet Program Guidelines (Attachment 1).

This MOU covers a period of two (2) years beginning July 1, 2026. Once fully executed by all parties on the signature page below, it replaces any previous Letters of Agreement, Letter of Understanding, or MOU related to the NMMS program of the NMEDD.

I. PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The local Governing body of Los Alamos County and the Los Alamos MainStreet Creative District agree to abide by the eligibility and participation requirements as set forth below. The local governing body's official representative and the steering committee or Board of the local MainStreet program have read and understand the Accreditation requirements of the NMMS Program and the MSA "Accreditation Standards" as set forth in Attachment 1.

II. REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL MAINSTREET ORGANIZATION- LOS ALAMOS MAINSTREET CREATIVE DISTRICT

- A. Provide community economic growth revitalization services to the property and business owners and residents of the district through the Main Street Approach™, and in alignment with the guidelines of the MSA/NMSC and locally-established Economic Transformation Strategies (ETS).
- B. The organization and local government partner have a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Economic Development Department.
- C. The organization has a separate annual contract of services with the local government partner(s) (municipality, county, and/or tribal government) to implement community economic development initiatives within the designated MainStreet and/or Arts & Cultural District. The organization must supply NMMS with a copy of the executed service contract annually or whenever service contract is renewed.
- D. Work with the local government partner(s) (municipal, county, or tribal government) to ensure that appropriate financial revitalization tools, created through state statute for economic development (inclusive of any statutory changes), are adopted by the local government partner for the MainStreet District. These tools may include the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA), a Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA), District Master Plan, and/or Cultural Economic Development Plan, and related finance mechanisms, such as Tax Increment Finance District (TIF), a Tax Increment Development District (TIDD) and/or a Business Improvement District (BID).
- E. Maintain compliance with all annual nonprofit registration and reporting requirements of the New Mexico Secretary of State's Corporations Bureau, the New Mexico Attorney General's Office (Charitable Organizations Division) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The organization files all compliance and related documents to the NMMS Digital Dashboard.
- F. In partnership with the local government partner(s), maintains the minimum required operating budget relevant to the size of the community, neighborhood or district served (Attachment 1, Table 1).

- G. If established as an independent nonprofit corporation, the organization must have a Board of Directors with oversight of the organization's performance.
 - 1) The Board of Directors agrees to raise additional funds as needed to meet minimum operation budgets for Affiliate and Accredited organizations per the specifications in Attachment 1, Table 1.
 - 2) The organization must maintain an adequate budget to support training for staff and Board members in nonprofit management and leadership and ensure staff and Board attendance requirements are met.
- H. Establish three (3) NMMS approved Economic Transformation Strategies (ETS) based on adopted economic development plans for the district, implement the work of the *Main Street Approach*[™], and provide evidence of annual progress towards implementation.
 - 1) Economic Transformation Strategies should be developed in consultation with and input from district stakeholders and local government partners.
 - 2) One (1) of the three (3) ETS's should be dedicated to organizational capacity-building activities that directly relate to the organization's/district's specific economic development goals.
 - 3) The organization is required to have a written work plan adopted by the Board of Directors that reflects projects and activities that utilize each of the MainStreet Four Points towards realization of outcomes of the three (3) Economic Transformation Strategies.
- I. Adopt and abide by the following organizational policies as recommended by the IRS and the New Mexico Attorney General's office:
 - 1) Conflict of Interest policy: All members of the Board of Directors or Steering Committee must sign a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure statement in accordance with the adopted Conflict of Interest policy,
 - 2) Records and Retention and Destruction policy,
 - 3) Whistleblower Protections policy,
 - 4) Fiscal Controls/Financial Management policy, and
 - 5) Non-discrimination/Non-harassment policy.
- J. Upon revision to the local MainStreet organization's operational bylaws and/or amendment of its Articles of Incorporation, the local organization will provide NMMS with updated copies.
- K. Hire an Executive Director to oversee day-to-day operations of the nonprofit (see Attachment 1, Table 1), to provide outreach and support to the MainStreet District's constituents, attend local and NMMS-produced required meetings and trainings and support the Board and its committees in implementing the goals, projects, and activities outlined in Board-adopted ETS's.
 - 1) The Board of Directors provides the Executive Director with a written job description; an appropriate annual staff work plan based on the organization's annual work plan; and at minimum an annual job performance review.
 - 2) The Board of Directors ensures the Executive Director has an office equipped to conduct the work of the program.
 - 3) The Board of Directors maintains adequate funding for the Executive Director's expenses in building skills, knowledge and expertise to assist the organization through the trainings and programs offered by NMMS and Main Street America.
- L. Meet all MSA Accreditation Standards needed to maintain status as a Main Street America Affiliate or Accredited program. Provide evidence of annual compliance with all programmatic requirements of the NMMS program including legal compliance documents, annual work plans, operating budgets, assessment surveys, progress reporting and adoption of required policies.
- M. Meet all requirements for reporting NMMS reinvestment statistics.

- 1) The organization agrees to submit Quarterly Reports to NMMS as established by the state legislature, tracking performance measures for the program. Reports are submitted according to the following schedule:
 1. The First Quarter Report, July 1 through September 30 is due October 1.
 2. The Second Quarter Report, Oct 1 through December 31 is due January 1.
 3. The Third Quarter Report, January 1 through March 31 is due April 1.
 4. The Fourth Quarter Report, April 1 through June 30 is due July 1.
 - 2) The organization ensures the timely filing of all other reports and surveys required by Main Street America/National Main Street Center, the State Legislature, the NMEDD, and, as required by local governmental partners.
- N. Staff and Board members must participate in an annual NMMS program review and accreditation process to review organization and staff performance and qualification for Main Street America Accreditation.
- O. Notify NMMS of any changes to contact information for the local program office, Executive Director, Board President, Board Members and Committee Chairs.

III. REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER – LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

The Main Street Approach™ offers community-based revitalization initiatives with a practical, adaptable framework for downtown transformation that is easily tailored to local conditions. The Main Street Approach helps communities get started with revitalization and grows with them over time but also requires a cooperative, working partnership of the public and private sectors to succeed.

With the execution of this MOU, the NMMS program requires each local MainStreet program to have in place a resolution of financial support adopted by the local government stating its support and funding commitment to the local MainStreet organization. A copy of the annual scope of services agreement or service contract should be delivered to the NMMS office as a condition of receiving services or funding from NMMS. Failure to adopt such resolution of financial support, or to provide the required financial resources, may result in the suspension of the services provided by NMMS and designation of the local organization as “inactive.”

- A. NMMS requires the local government partner to enter into an annual service contract (or similar procurement mechanism in accordance with local policies and standards) for such financial support based on the adopted District Cultural Economic Development Plan, District Master Plan or Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plan and the adopted ETS's, with the local MainStreet organization.
 - a. Contracts should specify the commitment of resources in accordance with the *New Mexico MainStreet Program Guidelines* (minimum funding contributions by the local government partner are described in Attachment 1, Table 1) and shall include deliverables and/or services relevant to the revitalization of the downtown MainStreet District and/or Arts & Cultural District under the specifications of an adopted Cultural Economic Development Plan, District Master Plan or Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plan for the District(s) and in alignment with the local MainStreet programs selected ETS's.
- B. Coordinate planning and implementation of revitalization projects through designated/appointed liaisons (local government Manager, Administrator, or Planning Director) that can also be involved and provide feedback on the development and adoption of the local MainStreet organization's Economic Transformation Strategies.
- C. Where applicable, adopt appropriate ordinances, tools (LEDA, etc.), plans (District Cultural Economic Development Plan, District Master Plan or Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plan) and include projects on local Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP) to support the district revitalization. The local government partner will dedicate economic development funding to priority economic development projects identified in adopted ordinances, tools, and plans, and agrees to administer state and federal funds with the MainStreet organization partner.

- D. Partner in public infrastructure reinvestment in the district by administering funds in a timely manner, coordinating projects, and managing capital outlay or other state or federal funds dedicated to MainStreet revitalization projects.
- E. Assist the MainStreet and/or Arts & Cultural District organization, where applicable, with collection and dissemination of relevant information, plans and statistics that support the district economic revitalization or reporting to the New Mexico State Legislature through the NMMS program.

IV. REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MAINSTREET PROGRAM

NMMS, in consideration of financial resources established annually through the New Mexico State Legislature, will provide the following services and resources to designated MainStreet communities (inclusive of the local government partner, local MainStreet organization, and businesses/property owners within the MainStreet district):

- A. Through its staff or contractors, provide technical assistance (at no cost to the local program/community) relevant to the *Main Street Approach*™ and other commercial district economic growth, revitalization, and management topics. Each local organization may request services from NMMS, through submission of a Service Request Form to the NMMS Director.
- B. Provide trainings, institutes, workshops, and conferences to support the community revitalization work of organizations and local government partners, and the professional development of local MainStreet Executive Directors and Board Members, including Executive Director State-Certification.
- C. Conduct a MainStreet Program Annual Review & Accreditation Process for the local MainStreet organization, a comprehensive assessment of the program's accomplishments under the Main Street Approach™ with recommendations required of the organization as a State-Designated Revitalization Partner.
- D. Seek, manage, and coordinate public resources (capital outlay, public infrastructure, or other state/federal funds) and partnership grants for the implementation of local revitalization projects.
- E. Supply Main Street America network membership dues and discounted registration fees for training, institutes, workshops, and conferences, as funding is available.

V. SUBLICENSES

Designated Main Street America Affiliate and Accredited Programs must sign an annual sublicensing agreement established by Main Street America and implemented through the NMMS State Coordinating Program. The sublicensing agreements establish guidelines for participation and use of Main Street America Logos and Branding.

VI. MAIN STREET AMERICA ACCREDITATION

Designated New Mexico MainStreet organizations can apply for Main Street America Accreditation on an annual basis during the MainStreet Program Annual Review. Local organizations participating in the Accreditation Process must show successful implementation of their associated Four-Point projects toward the realization of their Economic Transformation Strategies, tracking and submitting their performance measures via Quarterly Reports, submitting all required documents and information on the online Main Street America Accreditation Platform, and meeting the Standards of Performance established by MSA (Attachment 1, Section IV, C).

VII. NONCOMPLIANCE

An organization that is unable to meet its programs requirements, particularly meeting minimum budget and staffing, and does not maintain its agreements with local government, or does not follow the *Main Street Approach*™ may lose its MainStreet designation and access to NMMS services and resources will be suspended. The Economic Development Department may also notify programs of termination of the MOU at the New Mexico MainStreet Director's recommendation. Upon cancellation of the MOU, NMMS will no longer provide services to the organization and local government partner, and they will be ineligible to apply for NMMS funding opportunities. The

organization may be further prohibited from using the Main Street America name, a trademark of the National Main Street Center, Inc. Inactive programs must reapply to NMMS for designation through the Project-Based Initiatives and NMMS Accelerator Process.

VIII. AGREEMENT

The parties hereunder do mutually agree that they have read and fully understand the obligations and responsibilities in operating as a partner with the New Mexico Economic Development Department's New Mexico MainStreet program as a MainStreet and/or Arts & Cultural District as stated herein and in Attachment 1 (*New Mexico MainStreet Program Guidelines*) accompanying this MOU. The parties further agree to abide by the terms of this MOU, implementing it to the best of their ability, with the assistance of services and resources (when available) provided through the New Mexico MainStreet program, and in accordance with the *Main Street Approach*™ as defined by Main Street America/National Main Street Center.

The local MainStreet organization and/or Arts & Cultural District (if applicable), local government partner and New Mexico MainStreet program hereby mutually agree to support the revitalization of the designated MainStreet and/or Arts & Cultural District under the specifications listed herein and in Attachment 1 (*New Mexico MainStreet Program Guidelines*) accompanying this MOU.

We do hereby sign:

On behalf of the New Mexico MainStreet Program, a program of the New Mexico Economic Development Department:



1/26/2026

Director, New Mexico MainStreet Program

Date

On behalf of the Local MainStreet and Arts & Cultural District Organization:



3/2/26

President of the Los Alamos MainStreet Creative District

Date

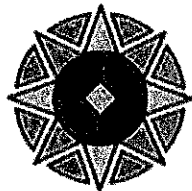
ACD Coordinating Council/Committee/Taskforce Chair/Representative (if applicable) Date

On behalf of the Local Government Partner:

Mayor/Manager/Representative of Los Alamos County

Date

Please enclose the annual resolution of the City Council, County Commission or Tribal Council identifying financial support for the MainStreet organization. Also attach any other working agreements or contracts between the Los Alamos County and the Los Alamos MainStreet Creative District.



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Attachment 1: New Mexico MainStreet Program Guidelines

for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028

I. Background

Mission: The New Mexico MainStreet Program fosters economic development in the state by supporting local MainStreet/Arts & Cultural District revitalization organizations and their local government partner in their economic work in downtowns and adjacent neighborhoods. The Program provides resources, education, training, and services for asset-based economic growth that builds local knowledge and skills based on the Main Street Approach™, which preserves and enhances the built environment, supports district businesses and entrepreneur development, and conserves and interprets local culture and heritage resulting in increased economic vitality of each participating local MainStreet district.

New Mexico MainStreet is a designated "Main Street America" State Coordinating Program. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, Inc., a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The New Mexico Economic Development Department is licensed and accredited annually to administer the MSA/NMSC's *Main Street Approach*™ to downtown revitalization. It does so through the development of "Economic Transformation Strategies" that are implemented through comprehensive work in four broad areas known as the **Four Points**: *Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization*.

NMMS is delegated by state statute (Main Street Act, NMSA 1978, 3-60B-1 to 3-60B-4 and the Arts and Cultural District Act, NMSA 1978 15-5A-1 to 15-5A-7 NMSA 1978), and through NMEDD, to assist communities in building capacity in community economic development that creates jobs, supports commercial property owners, mitigates leakage of economic resources, grows businesses, encourages and supports entrepreneurship, benefits the local economy, and raises the quality of life for its residents. The NMMS program was launched in 1984 and accepted its first designated organizations in 1985. NMMS is responsible for coordinating and orchestrating resources, services, and professional technical assistance to its organizations via several programs and initiatives. For more information, visit the NMMS website: www.nmmainstreet.org.

II. New Mexico MainStreet and Main Street America Designations

Local New Mexico MainStreet programs are established as public-private, community economic development partnership programs dedicated to revitalization and economic growth of traditional and/or historic commercial centers. Local programs are tiered, based on local capacity and organizational development, and receive resources, technical assistance, and support from NMMS concurrent with their program designation or authorization.

- A. **New Mexico MainStreet Project-Based Initiatives:** When resources are available to add new MainStreet projects or programs, local communities can enter the NMMS Program by participating in one of NMMS's *Project-Based Initiatives* and follow-up participation/acceptance into the NMMS *Accelerator*. Applications

can be submitted on a rolling basis; however, interested communities should contact NMMS Leadership to discuss potential projects, receive preliminary approval, and then apply to receive support when NMMS has the available resources to support the proposed project.

- 1) **Frontier and Rural Communities Initiative (FRCI):** The MainStreet Act was amended in 2013 by the State Legislature to establish the Frontier Communities Initiative administered by NMMS to provide project-based community economic development support for rural communities. The FRCI supports communities under 50,000 in population. The 12 to 18-month affiliation with NMMS through the Initiative focuses on one economic development project within a traditional or historic village or town center. The FCI is not open to communities that already have a MainStreet or Arts & Cultural District Program. The program focuses not only on the proposed project, but it also seeks to renew and build leadership in community economic development. It requires a group of stakeholders working in partnership with a local governing body, however, it does not require a non-profit board and paid staff as is required of designated MainStreet Programs.
 - 2) **Native American Communities Initiative (NACI):** Building off the success of the Frontier/Rural Communities Initiative, the NACI was created in 2019 to provide specific project-based community economic development support to New Mexico's indigenous communities where the preservation of tribal culture and political sovereignty create different challenges and opportunities than working in rural economic development in general. The 12 to 24-month affiliation with NMMS through the Initiative focuses on one economic development project within a pueblo, reservation, or village or town center. The NACI is not open to communities that already have a MainStreet or Arts & Cultural District Program. Like the FRCI, NACI focuses not only on the proposed project, but it also seeks to renew and build leadership in community economic development. It requires a group of stakeholders working in partnership with a tribal governing body, however, it does not require a non-profit board and paid staff as is required of designated MainStreet Programs.
 - 3) **Urban Neighborhood Commercial Corridors Initiative (UNCCI):** The UNCC Initiative is a new pilot program of the New Mexico Economic Development Department's MainStreet program aimed at providing project-based community economic development support to urban neighborhood commercial corridors located in cities with more than 50,000 in population that may currently not have the capacity or resources to start or operate a full-fledged MainStreet Program. Like the FNAC and NACI Initiatives, the UNCC requires a group of stakeholders working in partnership with a local governing body, however, it does not require a non-profit board and paid staff as is required of designated MainStreet programs. Selected communities receive NMMS professional services and technical assistance to implement and complete a community economic development project within 12 to 18 months.
- B. New Mexico MainStreet Accelerator:** In 2023, New Mexico MainStreet developed a new pathway for local communities to achieve Main Street designation. Organizations and/or communities interested in becoming a Main Street program must first apply to participate in a NMMS project-based initiative – either a Frontier and Rural Communities Initiative, Native American Communities Initiative, or an Urban Neighborhood Commercial Corridor Communities Initiative. Upon successful completion of a project-based initiative, applicants interested in moving toward MainStreet designation will be invited to submit an application for a second project and development of a Revitalization Action Plan that will include both local priorities and benchmarks established by NMMS to guide the applicants progress toward Main Street designation. Revitalization Action Plans should include actions and projects within each of the four points of the Main Street Approach (Organization, Economic Vitality, Promotion, Design), including actions specific to resource development, such as fundraising/ grantwriting, volunteer recruitment, and securing a MOU/service contract with the local municipality.

Upon successful completion of a second project and the development of a Revitalization Action Plan during their participation in a NMMS Project-Based Initiative, the applicant will be eligible to apply for NMMS Accelerator program designation. As a NMMS Accelerator program, the designee will also receive designation as a Main Street America Affiliate program and will embark on achieving the benchmarks established by NMMS and other requirements contained within this document to move them to the next

level. Over a 12-to-18-month timeframe, NMMS will provide guidance and technical assistance throughout the Accelerator to ensure the designee maintains designation as a Main Street America Affiliate when they complete the process. Local communities participating in the Accelerator must demonstrate progress in the implementation of their action plan and secure a commitment from their local government partner to help achieve their economic development goals and pass a resolution of support to provide minimum required funding through a service contract when they complete the process. Upon successful completion of the Accelerator process the organization will begin participating in the Annual MainStreet Program Review & Main Street America Accreditation Process where they will be eligible to receive MSA Accredited status based on their prior 12-month performance and meeting the baseline requirements and six standards of performance established by MSA.

C. Designation as Main Street America Affiliate™ or Accredited™ Program: NMMS, as a licensed and accredited State Coordinating Program, annually awards local Mainstreet programs with a Main Street America Affiliate™ or Main Street America Accredited™ designation based on progress in the prior 12 months toward meeting Main Street America's Performance Requirements and Operating Standards (outlined in Section IV, C of this document).

- 1) **Main Street America Affiliate™** status is for revitalization programs or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to the comprehensive Main Street Approach™ to District revitalization, have completed the NMMS Accelerator benchmarks, and are building organizational capacity using economic transformation strategies that engage the four points to develop their goals and annual implementation plans. Affiliate Programs are building or re-establishing their operational capacity and their programmatic engagement with demonstrable economic performance toward completing their ETS goals and working to attain Main Street America Accredited designation.
- 2) **Main Street America Accredited™** status is for programs or organizations that demonstrate success in planning, implementing, and measuring successful Economic Transformation Strategies utilizing the Main Street Approach™. Accredited programs have fully engaged Boards, committees or task groups working in all Four Points and a paid Executive Director commensurate with the requirements listed in Table 1 & Table 2 (*Budget and Staffing*) based on the size of the community. Accredited programs establish, monitor, and report rigorous outcome performance measurements and document achievement under all Standards of Performance established by Main Street America.
- 3) **Sublicensing Agreements for Main Street America Affiliate and Accredited programs:**
 - i. New Mexico MainStreet organizations designated as a Main Street America Affiliate or Accredited program must sign an annual sublicensing agreement established by Main Street America and implemented through the NMMS Coordinating Program.
 - ii. The sub-licensing agreements establish guidelines for participation and requisite use of Main Street America Logos and Branding.

D. New Mexico Arts & Cultural Districts Program and Designation: The NM Arts & Cultural Districts Program (ACD), was established by the legislature in 2007 and statutorily attached to New Mexico MainStreet, to assist communities in developing their cultural and creative economy resources to create dynamic and economically vibrant districts. The ACD Program is a joint effort of three state agencies, New Mexico MainStreet, New Mexico Arts Division, and Historic Preservation Division (HPD). The NMMS Director, by statute, serves as the State Coordinator overseeing the ACD program. The New Mexico Arts Commission authorizes new districts, compounds, and institutions based on recommendations from the ACD State Coordinator, and HPD administers the NM State Income Tax Credit for Preservation of Cultural Properties that provides a doubling of the available tax credit when a listed property is located within the boundaries of a State-Authorized ACD.

- 1) **Arts & Cultural District Start-Up Designation:** When state resources allow, municipalities, citizens, designated NMMS programs, or other nonprofit organizations can apply or petition to participate in NMMS's *Creative Economy Jump Start* as the first step toward the *Arts & Cultural District Start-Up Designation*.
 - i. *Creative Economy Jump Start:* The purpose of the *Creative Economy Jump Start* is to work with local Main Street Organizations and non-NMMS communities interested in becoming a NMMS Program to access capacity and identify opportunities with respect to Creative and Cultural Economy work and their potential for designation as a New Mexico State Authorized Arts & Cultural District.
 1. Designated NMMS programs can request to participate in the *Creative Economy Jump Start* by submitting a NMMS Service Request and justification memo outlining the communities creative and cultural assets and potential for designation as a New Mexico State Authorized Arts & Cultural District.
 2. Non-NMMS communities/organizations can apply to participate in the *Creative Economy Jump Start* by applying to NMMS' FRCI, NACI, or UNCCI Project-Based Initiatives.
 - ii. Start-Up Arts & Cultural District Designation:
 1. NMMS Organizations that have successfully completed the initial phases of the *Creative Economy Jump Start* and have effectively documented their potential for State Authorized ACD designation can petition NMMS to enter the ACD Start-Up phase to develop strategies to grow their arts, cultural, and creative economy assets.
 2. When resources are available to add new MS programs, non-NMMS communities that have completed the Creative Economy Jump Start through their participation in one of the NMMS's Project-Based Initiatives and are interested in becoming a NMMS Program with an ACD Designation can apply for participation in a joint/hybrid NMMS Accelerator/ACD Start-Up Process.
 3. ACD Start-Up's must complete the ACD Start-Up Performance Benchmarks that includes organizational, financial, planning, and image development modules that build local capacity, develops local arts and cultural assets, and help develop a cohesive and well-recognized Arts & Cultural district with a high concentration of cultural facilities and programs that serve as the main anchors of economic and destination development. A comprehensive outline of the Start-Up process and list of benchmarks is available for download at www.nmmainstreet.org/resource.

- 2) **State-Authorized Arts & Cultural District Designation:** MainStreet Programs that have completed the ACD Start-Up benchmarks, established arts and cultural assets and programming, have a developed, cohesive, easily recognizable District, and have an adopted Cultural Economic Development Plan can petition the NMMS Director/ACD Coordinator and NM Arts Commission for designation as a State-Authorized Arts & Cultural District. State Authorization:
 - i. Enables the doubling of the state's historic tax credits (up to \$50,000) for rehabilitation of eligible historic commercial properties listed on the State Register of cultural properties within the district's boundary.
 - ii. Enables local MS/ACD program to apply for NMMS Capital Outlay Public Infrastructure projects identified in the adopted Cultural Economic Development Plan.
 - iii. Enables access to NMMS technical assistance to implement arts, cultural, and creative economy projects in the district.
 - iv. Ensures the local ACD district will be included in Statewide branding and marketing of the Districts as an arts and cultural destination.

- v. Through municipal adoption of the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA), qualifying entities under the "cultural facilities" definition can apply for local and state LEDA funds for public/private economic development projects prioritized in the ACD Cultural Economic Development Plan, Master Plan, and/or MRA Plan.
- 3) Start-Up and State-Authorized Arts & Cultural District (ACD) designations are attached to a local MainStreet organization designated by New Mexico MainStreet as an Accredited or Affiliate Main Street America program. These Arts & Cultural Districts are administered by an ACD Coordinating Council that is responsible for developing and implementing Creative Economy projects and activities in the Arts & Cultural District. The ACD Coordinating Council operates under the local MainStreet organizations structure as a Standing Committee or Taskforce and are subject to the policies and procedures of the host organization.

E. *MainStreet programs with Start-Up or State-Authorized Arts & Cultural District (ACD):* In addition to NMMS and National Main Street Operations and Performance Standards (see Section IV. Performance Requirements and Operating Standards), programs with a Start-Up or State-Authorized ACD designation must also meet the following guidelines:

- 1) The organization shall meet all the statutory obligations of the Arts & Cultural District Act (2007).
- 2) The organization shall meet all policy requirements established by the State ACD Council:
 - i. Quarterly/Semi-Annual Reporting
 - ii. Creative economy benchmarks and performance measures
- 3) The organization shall have or will work with their local government partner to complete an ACD Cultural Economic Development Plan adopted by the local governing body.
- 4) MainStreet programs having chosen and received Start-Up or State Authorized ACD designation shall add or dedicate at least one of their ETS's to ACD/creative economy work.
 - i. The ACD Cultural Economic Development Plan will help guide the development of ACD ETS to grow the District's Cultural Economy.
 - ii. Goals of the ETS shall be integrated into the annual work plan and budget of the MainStreet organization.
- 5) Establish and maintain a standing ACD Coordinating Council (Committee or Taskforce) dedicated to implementing ACD/creative economy work:
 - i. The ACD Coordinating Council should include artists, artist organizations, and cultural and creative entrepreneurs.
 - ii. The MainStreet Board is responsible for ensuring adequate staffing, resourcing or support to the ACD Coordinating Council.
 - iii. With the support of staff, the ACD Coordinating Council shall prioritize and implement projects in the Board-adopted ETS's, and in line with the Cultural Economic Development Plan adopted by local government.
 - iv. The Coordinating Council shall contribute to and participate in the annual performance or accreditation reviews conducted by NMMS.
 - v. Please see "*Policy Establishing Guidelines for the ACD Coordinating Council in State-Authorized Arts & Cultural Districts*" for more detailed information.
- 6) ACD staff (and, when possible, ACD Coordinating Council members) shall participate in in NMMS trainings, conferences, and institutes.

III. Economic Transformation Strategies and Community Revitalization

The local MainStreet organization is required to establish and implement three (3) NMMS-approved Economic Transformation Strategies (ETS) for the district based on a market analysis and adopted economic development plans. The local MainStreet organization is expected to engage NMMS, their local government partner, and district stakeholders in the process of developing and adopting their ETS. Of the three ETS, one should be dedicated to organizational capacity building ("Capacity Building Strategy") and is not directly related to specific economic development goals. An annual work plan is developed based on the three (3) ETS. All work in the Main Street Approach™ and Four-Points (Organization, Design, Promotion, and Economic Vitality), should directly support outcomes established under the ETS strategies. Work teams, task forces or committees are established to implement projects that advance each strategy.

The focus of the MainStreet Program Annual Review & Accreditation Process for each local organization will be based on the positive outcomes of the Board and staff in meeting performance metrics in the annual work plan related to each ETS strategy and the engagement of each of the Four Points by the organization in meeting each strategy.

ETS strategies should be concrete, specifically defined, and achievable with the existing resources of the local organization. Local resources include volunteers established as committees/taskforces/work teams, funding, and adopted revitalization and redevelopment tools necessary for successful completion of each of the annual strategies. Requests for NMMS services, resources and support are available to help achieve these annual economic development strategies.

A. Annual strategies are expected to be informed/guided by:

1) For **Main Street America Affiliate or Accredited programs, or State Authorized Arts & Cultural Districts:**

- i. Input from district stakeholders and local government partners, and District Master Plans, Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Plans, District Cultural Economic Development Plans, and/or Comprehensive Economic Plans adopted by the local government partner.

2) For communities engaged in the **New Mexico MainStreet Accelerator or Arts & Cultural District Start-Up:**

- i. Input from district stakeholders and local government partners, NMMS Accelerator benchmarks, and related Action Plan or Creative Economy Jump Start Plan
- ii. Other Accelerator or Start-Up benchmarks established by NMMS

B. Based on designation of the local **MainStreet and/or Arts & Cultural District** organization as a Main Street America Affiliate™, Main Street America Accredited™ program, NMMS will provide professional assistance and support through the Main Street Four-Point Approach® tied to ETS's and annual work plans via a service request form submitted to NMMS. NMMS will work with the local governing body and the local organization to identify and apply for funding for planning and infrastructure/capital investments within the district identified as priority projects in adopted plans. Priority is given to those MainStreet projects on the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans; additional bonus points on competitive applications may also be considered.

IV. Performance Requirements and Operating Standards

A. Requirements for Local MainStreet Organizations

Maintaining a Main Street America Affiliate or Accredited Program enables access to additional specialized technical support, incentive programs, and resources, and serves as a pre-requisite to apply for MainStreet Public Infrastructure funds and operations/project funding through NMMS Partners (MFA, NMFA, FundIt, and other federal, state and foundation grantors partnering with NMMS). Maintaining a Main Street America Accredited program also ensures access to scholarships and grants from the New Mexico Resiliency Alliance (NMRA) and it's funding partners.

New Mexico MainStreet maintains a digital dashboard (www.nmmainstreet.org/dashboard/login.php) to track annual compliance filings and monitor progress toward State Certification and National Accreditation. Main Street America also has a Main Street Accreditation web-based platform (<https://mainstreetreporting.org/login>). Local MainStreet organizations are responsible for uploading compliance and other required filing so on both platforms on an annual basis.

A local MainStreet organization designated by NMMS of the NMEDD must meet or exceed the following requirements to maintain its designation:

- 1) *MOU*: The organization has a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding with the Economic Development Department and Local Government Partner.
- 2) *Scope of Services Contract/MOU/LOA with Local Government Partner*: It is required that the local MainStreet organization have a separate annual contract for services with the local government partner to do community economic development work within the designated district, outlining expectations of the local government partner, and clearly defined deliverables for its financial support of the local MainStreet organization. The organization must provide NMMS with a copy of the executed agreement annually.
- 3) *Resolution of Support and Funding by the Local Government Partner* (City Council, County or Tribal Commission). Each MainStreet and/or Arts & Cultural District program must have in place a biennial MOU with NMEDD's NMMS program and the local governing body, along with an annual/biennial resolution adopted by the local government partner for the term of the MOUs stating its support and funding commitment to the local MainStreet organization. If the resolution is for only the first year of this MOU, then a new resolution by the governing body will need to be approved and delivered to NMMS prior to services from NMMS continuing into the second year of the two-year MOU cycle. Failure to adopt such resolution of financial support, or to provide the operational resources to sustain the Public-Private Partnership, may result in the suspension of the services provided by NMMS. The annual funding commitment required of the local government partner is described in Table 1 for FY25 and Table 2 for FY26 below.
- 4) The MainStreet organization is also required to engage in fundraising and resource development activities needed to meet the minimum operational budget requirements for a New Mexico MainStreet/Main Street America Program (Table 1).

Table 1: Budget and staffing requirements for New Mexico MainStreet/Main Street America organizations.

| | Rural Community | Small Community | Mid-Size Community or Commercial Neighborhood | Large Community or Urban Program |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Population | < 5,000 | 5,001 - 15,000 | 15,001 - 50,000 | > 50,000 |
| Min. Operating Budget for NMMS/MSA Affiliate Program | \$25,000 | \$45,000 | \$60,000 | \$100,000+ |
| Min. Operating Budget for NMMS/MSA Accredited Program | \$40,000 | \$60,000 | | \$100,000+ |
| Required Contribution to local MainStreet program by Local Gov't Partner | \$26,000 | \$46,000 | \$52,000 | \$79,000 |
| Executive Director Staffing Requirement, MainStreet America Affiliate (hrs/wk) | 20 | 30 | | |
| Executive Director Staffing Requirement, Main Street America Accredited program (hrs/wk) | 20 | 40 | | |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| NMMS Accelerator and ACD Start-Up process Designate | \$20,000 from local government; no staffing requirement |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

*Note: Operating at minimum budget/staffing benchmarks is usually not adequate to advance Four Point projects.

B. Participation Requirements for Local MainStreet/ACD Organizations

The MainStreet/Arts & Cultural District Executive Director and/or appropriate staff should attend NMMS Conferences and Institute training as established by the State Coordinating Program to build their skills and knowledge.

1) Requirements for Executive Directors:

- i. The Executive Director must attend the annual NMMS Conference and NMMS Institute.
- ii. The Executive Director must complete the *NMMS Executive Director Boot Camp and Certification Program* where they will receive one-time training in MainStreet Fundamentals.
 - Executive Directors wishing to substitute equivalent training courses, or to receive a waiver for previously attended trainings, must obtain prior written approval from NMMS and proper documentation must be provided when courses are completed.
- iii. An Executive Director must attend a Main Street America’s national “Main Street Now” conference within the first two years of employment and at least once every four years to keep up-to-date on the accomplishments and innovations of other MainStreet leaders nationally.
 - The organization, through reimbursement or other schedule of payment, assumes the costs of the Executive Director’s participation in all required trainings.

2) Board President/Board Members:

- i. The local organization Board President is expected to attend one of the following each year: NMMS Conference, NMMS Institute, or national Main Street Now Conference.
- ii. The Board President and other Board members shall attend any required Board member trainings established by NMMS.

C. Main Street America Standards of Performance

- 1) *Main Street America Accreditation:* Consideration for Accreditation by the Main Street America applies only to those local MainStreet organizations implementing their Economic Transformation Strategies, tracking and fulfilling performance measures, and meeting the MSA/NMSC Standards of Performance, listed below. A comprehensive listing of the indicators and scoring process is available for download at www.nmmainstreet.org/resource.
 - 1. Broad-based Community Commitment
 - 2. Inclusive Leadership & Organizational Capacity
 - 3. Diverse and Sustainable Funding
 - 4. Strategy-Driven Programming
 - 5. Preservation-Based Economic Development
 - 6. Demonstrated Impact & Result

V. Resources Provided by New Mexico MainStreet:

NMMS is funded through the New Mexico State Legislature and provides a variety of resources to designated communities including access to professional technical assistance, economic growth and revitalization supports, networking, and education as described in the following pages:

A. Technical Assistance Services

Through its staff or contractors, NMMS will provide technical assistance (at no cost to local program/community) in a variety of subject areas relevant to the Main Street Approach™ to downtown revitalization, an organization's "Economic Transformation Strategies, and their work in the Four Points: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. Each local organization may request on-site, email, and/or telephone consultation(s) from NMMS. Access to Technical Assistance is initiated through submission of a Service Request Form to the NMMS Director/ACD Coordinator. Upon receiving the service request, the NMMS Director/ACD Coordinator will assign the appropriate Revitalization Specialist(s) to coordinate, design, and delivery of services, on-site visits and/or other communications. Service request forms, along with descriptions of available services are available online at: nmmainstreet.org/resource/programs/.

Technical Assistance services include, but are not limited to:

- Organization: Organizational development consultants provide facilitation in strategic planning, visioning and mission statements, work plan development, resource development, leadership and volunteer development, succession planning, nonprofit management, committee training, staff training, and continuous quality improvement of the program.
- Marketing and Promotion: Promotion, Marketing and Graphic Design specialists offer assistance with image development and branding, marketing strategies, logo design, promotional and collateral materials development, event planning, visual merchandising, media relationships, online/social media, publicity and advertising.
- Economic Vitality: Economists, business, and property development specialists provide technical assistance and training in market analysis, business strengthening and recruitment, real estate development, economic development incentives, revitalization financing tools, placemaking, and program progress and impacts monitoring.
- Architectural and Design Services: Architects and Planners provide conceptual design services for façade improvements, floor plans, parking, landscape, signage and interior improvements.
 - a. Design Intensives: Specialized, local volunteer-driven, on-site design intensives are offered by the NMMS Design Team through application (when available) to the MainStreet Placemaking, and MainStreet Façade Squad, and other architectural restoration.
- Planning and Historic Preservation: Planners and design professionals provide assistance in placemaking, historic preservation, community-based planning processes, streetscape design, vehicular and pedestrian circulation enhancements, parks, way-finding design, district master planning, metropolitan redevelopment plans, urban planning, and zoning.
- Arts & Cultural/Creative Economy Resources Development: Cultural Resource consultants, in partnership with staff and consultants from New Mexico Arts, offer technical assistance and services related to protection, development and promotion of arts and cultural resources, cultural facilities and historic properties to enhance the local creative economy supporting cultural entrepreneurs, creative enterprises and industries.

B. Other Resources

New Mexico MainStreet provides a variety of resources and partnerships to assist local communities and organizations with the revitalization of their traditional or historic commercial district. These include:

- Trainings, Workshops, Conferences, and Institutes: Annually, NMMS identifies opportunities for intermediate and advanced-level trainings in specific areas of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to strengthen and build skills for organizational and municipal leaders and partnering organizations.
 - *Annual NMMS Conference and NMMS Institute*
 - Managing the MainStreet/ACD Nonprofit Corporation training
 - Multi-part series on Grant Writing and Nonprofit Fundraising for local MainStreet leaders
 - *Online trainings:* NMMS provides webinars, videos or other online training opportunities to build capacity of staff, community leaders and organization volunteers in support of the district economic growth and revitalization.
- NMMS Executive Director Boot Camp and Certification Program: Executive Directors who successfully complete the Boot Camp and other required trainings shall automatically qualify as a State-Certified Executive Director.
- Marketing: NMMS and NMEDD provide statewide marketing opportunities for local MainStreet organizations/districts, initiatives and activities through its websites (www.goNM.biz, www.nmmainstreet.org, www.offtheroadnm.org), social media platforms, e-newsletters, and *Choose MainStreet* marketing campaign.
- Information and Networking: Through regular email, list serves, mailings, websites and meetings, NMMS provides timely notice on grant and partnership opportunities, guidance on innovative revitalization tools and techniques, and helps with addressing the multiple challenges that arise during the day-to-day course of each local organization's MainStreet efforts.
- MainStreet Program Annual Review & Accreditation Process Accreditation Process: Accreditation by the Main Street America recognizes achievement under the Standards of Performance established by the Main Street America/National Main Street Center, Inc. NMMS conducts an annual accreditation review – a comprehensive assessment of the program's accomplishments under the Main Street Approach® for the previous calendar year. Participation in the Accreditation review is required and the NMMS Director prepares recommendations for Main Street America based on the performance of the previous 12 months. Main Street America Accreditation is also contingent upon meeting all compliance requirements listed in preceding sections.
- Main Street America/National Main Street Network Membership: The state program pays each local organization's annual network membership fee to the MSA. Membership benefits include the monthly *Main Street News*, discounted conference and workshop registration fees, access to members-only informational resources on the NMSC website, and member rates on publications.
 - Main Street America Conference – Main Street Now: Annually, NMMS provides discounted basic registration for Main Street America Affiliate and Accredited programs to help each Executive Director attend the Main Street Now conference. Local organizations meeting all annual performance standards for Main Street America Accredited programs are also provided one (1) additional discounted basic registration to the NMSC conference for a member of the Board of Directors when funding is available.
- MainStreet Public Infrastructure Funding: MainStreet America Affiliate, MainStreet America Accredited, and State Authorized Arts & Cultural District programs are eligible to apply for NMMS Capital Outlay Public infrastructure funding for priority pedestrian safety upgrades and infrastructure improvements within designated MainStreet Districts
 - NMEDD works with the State Legislature and Governor to appropriate Public Infrastructure funds, which are then awarded on a competitive basis with particular emphasis on construction-ready projects and organizational commitment to leverage such funds for direct economic growth and private sector reinvestment.

- *MainStreet Partnership Grants and Resources*: NMMS works closely with several other state agencies including the Tourism Department, Historic Preservation Division, New Mexico Arts Division, and the Department of Transportation as well as other statewide partnering organizations that share a common vision including the New Mexico Coalition of MainStreet Communities (NMCMSC) and the New Mexico Resiliency Alliance (NMRA).
 - The State Coordinating Program also works with statewide nonprofit and corporate funding partner organizations that provide funding opportunities to local MainStreet/ACD programs to access and coordinate resources for district economic development and revitalization projects.