

News Release



Oregon Parks and Recreation Department FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grants available for main street building projects statewide

SALEM, Oregon —

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is offering [grants](#) for up to \$200,000 in matching funds for downtown revitalization efforts in communities participating in the Oregon Main Street Network. The Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant funds may be used to acquire, rehabilitate, and construct buildings on properties in designated downtown areas statewide.

Funded projects must facilitate community revitalization that will lead to private investment, job creation or retention, establishing or expanding viable businesses, or creating a stronger tax base. Projects may include façade improvement, accessibility enhancement, basic utilities, second floor renovations and more. Only organizations participating in the Oregon Main Street Network are eligible to apply. Projects must be within approved Main Street areas. Eligible organizations may collaborate with the local governments and private property owners to apply for projects that will have the biggest benefit to the downtown. The grant application deadline is March 15, 2022.

In 2019, the second grant cycle, SHPO awarded 30 matching grants worth \$5,244,261 to Oregon Main Street Network organizations across the state for building projects that encourage economic vitality. Projects ranged from façade improvement to housing and awards ranged from \$56,731-\$200,000. 63% of the requests were funded, with 93% going to rural communities.

“While all of the 2019 projects are not complete, we are thrilled to see the impact this grant program is having in communities that have worked hard to make downtowns a strong asset despite the pandemic,” notes Sheri Stuart, Oregon Main Street Network Coordinator. Adaptive reuse of a bank building brought apartments to downtown Coos Bay. And structural enhances stabilized a building for retail and event space in Baker City. “We are looking forward to proposals for the new cycle,” adds Stuart.

In 2015, legislation established a permanent fund for the grant and provided an initial \$2.5 million of funding as part of a larger lottery bond package. In the 2017 legislative session, an additional \$5 million was approved and was funded through the sale of the 2019 lottery bond package. The 2021 bond sale was canceled due to the economic impact of COVID-19, but the Oregon legislature included Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant in the bond packages slated for 2022 and 2023.

Preservation office staff is happy to talk with applicants about potential grant projects and review applications. A free online workshop specific to the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant will be January 14, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Registration](#) is required.

Other resources available include:

- [Prepping for the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant](#) – with tips for organizational preparation and project planning and selection.
- [Heritage Bulletin: Board Involvement with Grants](#) – with tips on organizational success for grant management.

To learn more about the grant and workshop, visit www.oregonheritage.org or contact Kuri Gill at Kuri.Gill@oprds.oregon.gov or 503-986-6085. To learn more about the Oregon Main Street Network contact Sheri Stuart at Sheri.Stuart@oprds.oregon.gov or 503-986-0679.

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