

24 Main Street Iowa Projects Assisted

In another effort to revitalize local communities and create jobs, the Legislature appropriated \$13 million to Iowa's Main Street program. The Department of Economic Development awarded this \$13 million to 24 projects in Main Street Iowa communities, to support physical improvements in their historic commercial districts.

During the 2010 session, the Legislature appropriated this I-JOBS funding for utilization in Main Street Iowa designated districts with high quality projects. This included those that had previously applied for funding consideration or had received partial funding for: façade master plans to rehabilitate storefronts, streetscape projects with the planning and the majority of funding secured, or projects that will enhance their downtown district and are considered "shovel ready."

The Main Street Iowa Program is celebrating its 25 years as an historic commercial district revitalization program within the Department of Economic Development. Currently, there are 46 participating Main Street districts in the state in 38 different counties.

Since 1986, the private sector has invested over \$971 million into rehabilitation of historic buildings, new construction and real estate acquisition in these Main Street districts. Every investment has been made with the intent of increasing the economic and physical value of these districts. Main Street districts are managed by a private non-profit organization under contract with DED to implement the Main Street® strategy for historic district revitalization.

Communities receiving these I-JOB Funds include: Bedford, Bell Plaine, Bloomfield, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Charles City, Corning, Davenport, Greenfield, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, State Center, Story City, Washington, Waterloo, West Branch, West Des Moines, West Union, and Woodbine.