

EMPOWERING
Community Revitalization

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PRESS RELEASE

Historic Downtown Charleston Receives Downtown Revitalization Grant from Missouri Main Street

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Historic Downtown Charleston has been selected in a competitive application process to participate in a cost-sharing Community Empowerment Grant that provides training, mentoring, and technical services to revitalization programs in Missouri's historic commercial districts. The grant is provided by Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. (MMSC)

MMSC staff will visit with Charleston's community leaders to evaluate existing and future needs of the downtown, and then schedule a series of customized training and mentoring sessions equipping them to concentrate on their local revitalization goals. MMSC State Director Gayla Roten noted, "This service grant offers an amazing opportunity to Charleston to bring the community together to preserve and revitalize the downtown district. We are excited to assist with this work!"

The goal of the grant is the development of a sustainable, volunteer-based organization that will carry out an economic development program based on the preservation of historic assets in the downtown, using the Main Street Approach™ to revitalization.

With support from MMSC, Historic Downtown Charleston anticipates:

- Comprehensive and sustainable revitalization in downtown Charleston and throughout the community
- To build on the successes already accomplished by Historic Downtown Charleston and other stakeholders in the community

During the next two years, MMSC will provide Historic Downtown Charleston with training and mentoring to formally establish a revitalization organization that will engage the entire community as participants and beneficiaries. The group also will attend regional revitalization workshops and conferences conducted by MMSC.

The Community Empowerment Grant is a 60/40 matching service grant, requiring the community to contribute 40% of the cash value of the services. The total value of the grant in training and mentoring services is \$30,800. Charleston is also now designated as an Affiliate in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure which ranks progress on standards established by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* and *National Main Street Center*.

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