



HB 3414 - The Illinois Main Street Act

- HB 3414 creates the Illinois Main Street Act within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to formalize in statute the existing Illinois Main Street program.
- It maintains the current program of providing assistance to Main Street communities on downtown or neighborhood commercial district revitalization initiatives.
- It provides a framework for designating new Main Street Communities in keeping with the National Main Street Center's criteria.
- The Lt. Governor shall be the Ambassador of the program with DCEO consulting with the Lt. Governor on activities of the program.

Illinois Main Street Program

Illinois Main Street is a comprehensive community revitalization program that promotes historic preservation and economic development of the state's traditional business districts. Illinois Main Street is based on a role model developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Illinois Main Street helps communities define their own vision and works with them to make that vision a reality. Local staff, business and volunteers provide grassroots leadership, raise money and spearhead revitalization activities.

The Main Street Four Point Approach is:

- 1) Organization – Developing and sustaining an effective downtown management organization.
- 2) Design – Improving the appearance of the downtown buildings and streetscape through historic preservation.
- 3) Promotion – Marketing the districts' unique assets to bring people downtown.
- 4) Economic Restructuring - Improving the downtown's economic base by assisting and recruiting businesses and finding new uses for underused space.

The Illinois Main Street program has been housed within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the previous two years. Prior to, since 1993, it was administered by the Office of the Lt. Governor. Upon entering office, Lt. Governor Simon signed an Intergovernmental Agreement keeping it at DCEO.

Illinois currently has 51 Main Street Communities throughout the State.