



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **ELKTON ALLIANCE, INC. DESIGNATED AS A 2026 ACCREDITED PROGRAM BY MAIN STREET AMERICA**

**This highest national designation recognizes Elkton Alliance Inc.'s exceptional commitment to community-based revitalization and positive local impact.**

[Elkton, MD, May 14, 2026] – Elkton Alliance, Inc. has been designated as a 2026 Accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of designated programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

“We are proud to recognize Elkton Alliance, Inc. as a 2026 Accredited Main Street America program for your unwavering commitment to grassroots transformation and the extraordinary abilities of your staff, board of directors, and volunteers to respond to the needs of their community,” said Erin Barnes, President and CEO at Main Street America. “Elkton Alliance, Inc. demonstrates a dedication to investing in the people and places that make your downtown district special and contribute to the collective power of the Main Street movement to build vibrant spaces and durable economies.”

Elkton Alliance Inc. is one of 838 nationally recognized Accredited Main Street America organizations and is a part of a network of over 1,600 communities leading positive commercial district transformation efforts throughout the United States.

Main Street America recognizes two tiers of national designation — Affiliate and Accredited. These designations are a powerful advocacy tool, signaling to local stakeholders, as well as city, state, and national funders, that a Main Street program has an established position within a nationwide movement with a 45-year proven track record of generating impressive economic returns, building local capacity, creating welcoming and inviting communities, and creating lasting impact.



Elkton Alliance, Inc.'s performance was evaluated through assessments conducted by the organization's personnel and board of directors, and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify local programs that meet rigorous national community evaluation standards.

These standards provide the Main Street America network with a strong framework for reviewing progress, recognizing strengths, understanding trends, and identifying strategies to move Main Street programs forward.

To qualify for Accredited status—Main Street America's top designation tier—communities must demonstrate a proven track record of achieving outcomes in alignment with the Main Street Approach and exceptional performance in six areas: broad-based community commitment to revitalization; inclusive leadership and organizational capacity; diversified funding and sustainable program operations; strategy-driven programming; preservation-based economic development; and demonstrated impact and results.

In 2025, Main Street America programs generated \$9.4 billion in local reinvestment, welcomed 6,936 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 36,549 net new jobs, rehabilitated 10,623 historic buildings, and leveraged 1.8 million volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar a Main Street program spent on operations, \$23.13 was reinvested in its downtown district.

Between 2024-2025:

- Elkton welcomed **15** new businesses to town and assisted with ribbon cuttings/grand openings of the businesses.
- Through strategic grant funding deployment, the organization advanced downtown revitalization in Elkton by supporting façade improvements, beautification initiatives, seasonal décor, and targeted vacancy reduction efforts. These investments enhanced curb appeal, stimulated private reinvestment, and strengthened the overall visitor and business environment.
- Over **25** community events were held with a total event attendees estimated at over **15,000**.
- The total funds raised to support community-centric events, including the amount contributed by our volunteers through their time, talent and effort: \$103,000.



“As both a downtown business owner and Board President of the Elkton Alliance, Inc. I see firsthand the impact that a strong and vibrant Main Street has on our community. Achieving Main Street America Accreditation for 2026 highlights the hard work of our staff, board members, volunteers, business owners, community partners, and residents who all play a role in strengthening our downtown and creating a vibrant future for Elkton. This achievement reflects the dedication of so many people who care deeply about this community and believe in its potential. We are proud to continue building a community where businesses can thrive, families can connect, and visitors feel welcomed.” Kelly Walla Albanese, Elkton Alliance, Inc. President




### **About Elkton Alliance, Inc.**

Elkton Alliance, Inc. serves as the Main Street Manager and works together with the local government and business community to restore, promote and maintain our diverse historic downtown area while attracting new enterprises for the benefit of our community's residents, businesses, and visitors to make our community an even better place than it is today.

### **About Main Street America**

Main Street America leads a movement committed to strengthening communities through preservation-based economic development in older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. For more than 40 years, Main Street America has provided a practical, adaptable, and impactful framework for community-driven, comprehensive revitalization through the Main Street Approach™. Today, the network includes more than 1,600 communities across the country working to build stronger places through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, the Main Street movement has resulted in \$124.67 billion reinvested locally, 188,583 net new businesses, 852,443 net gain in jobs, 356,424 buildings rehabbed, and 41 million volunteer hours. Main Street America is a nonprofit subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit [mainstreet.org](http://mainstreet.org).

## **OUR CONTACT**

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