



FIRST & MAIN

How to Leverage Your Local Story to Unlock Federal Funding



firstandmain.org

Cities and towns need a healthy heart!

How we invest in our city centers matters – a reliable federal partner is a must!

Threats to Communities

The Trump Administration's infrastructure and FY19 budget proposals threaten dozens of federal programs, including many that support community revitalization. The following are just a few examples of programs used by many communities that could see cuts or elimination.

- HOME Investment Partnerships
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the Choice Neighborhoods initiative
- TIGER competitive transportation grant program
- Funding for Amtrak outside of the Northeast Corridor
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- EPA Building Blocks Technical Assistance

Threats to Communities

How have these and other federal programs helped fund projects and services in YOUR community?

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Why First & Main?

Local-Federal Partnership

- America's strength depends upon the economic health and vitality of its communities
- Local governments depend upon a strong federal partner to support revitalization goals
- Federal funding provides critical support for local transportation, economic development, housing, parks, and arts/cultural needs
- Federal appropriations, tax incentives, and infrastructure spending can make or break local redevelopment efforts



Why First & Main?

A Blueprint for Local Economic Prosperity

- Federal domestic spending rose in FY18 and will rise in FY19
- Local leaders know what works, what needs to be improved, and what's missing at the federal level
- Local leaders must be heard to set priorities

They won't call you!

- The First & Main Blueprint identifies these priorities





FIRST & MAIN

- **Coalition** of local elected officials in small to mid-sized towns and cities all across the U.S.
- **Blueprint:** 38 proposals to Congress and the Administration that will:
 - **Protect** the programs proven to work for local communities
 - **Improve** the programs that should be more effective
 - **Create** new programs to provide local communities with additional resources.



FIRST & MAIN

“A Blueprint for Prosperity in
America’s Local Communities”



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The First & Main Blueprint

Four Simple Principles for Federal Investment:

- Support locally-driven community revitalization
- Build vibrant, healthy, walkable towns and cities
- Create opportunities for everyone in America's small and mid-sized communities.
- Invest in infrastructure that creates lasting value.

www.firstandmain.org

The First & Main Blueprint

Strategies

- Thirty-eight (38) federal programs, in five key areas:
 - **Redevelopment & Revitalization**
 - **Local Economic Development**
 - **Rebuilding Downtown & Core Areas**
 - **Housing & Neighborhoods**
 - **Infrastructure Investment**



First & Main Project Activities

- Build national coalition of local elected leaders
- Engage Congress
- Op-eds
- Letters to the editor
- Social media
- In-District meetings
- Washington DC fly-in
- Rebuild America's Communities Week



Fly-In

April 22-24 Washington, DC Fly In

- Briefing for Hill Staff
- Network with other local leaders
- Meet with key members of Congress and the Trump Administration
- Learn from real estate and revitalization leaders
- Share our stories.



Rebuild America's Communities Week

September 15 - 22
Nationwide

- Coalition members met with their Members of Congress and their constituents during a national week of action, including:
 - August 15 webinar
 - Held or scheduled 13 meetings in 11 states (AL, ME, MS, WV, KY, NY, CO, MD, FL, IA, WA);
 - Wrote and posted about their efforts on social and traditional media



•Communities like @BoroughMonaca need a reliable federal partner, without which projects like the Monaca Gateway Project — partial funding via PA DCED, PENNDOT, County and Local funding—wouldn't be possible. #FirstAndMain



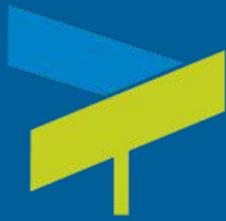
Our work is paying off!

- President's budget proposals sought to slash or eliminate many of the programs in the Blueprint
- FY18 appropriations saw Congress provide robust funding levels.
- Despite the President saying he would never again sign a similar bill, FY19 is promising

- Congress finalizing FY19 appropriations and has so far ignored the President's threat.
 - **FY18's robust funding levels continued!**
- Senate's recently approved FY19 Agriculture appropriations act: \$3 billion for rural development programs, an increase over the \$2.33 billion sought in the First & Main blueprint!
- FY19 Amtrak funding: \$1.942 billion. Above the First & Main requested level of \$1.5 billion for second year in a row.

Our Work Is Not Complete

- **Need your help** to ensure that these and the other programs critical for community revitalization are funded in the final FY19 appropriations and beyond.



FIRST & MAIN

Building Community Support

- Need to demonstrate strong backing by localities across the United States
- Nonpartisan effort
- Seek 300+ local elected official signers

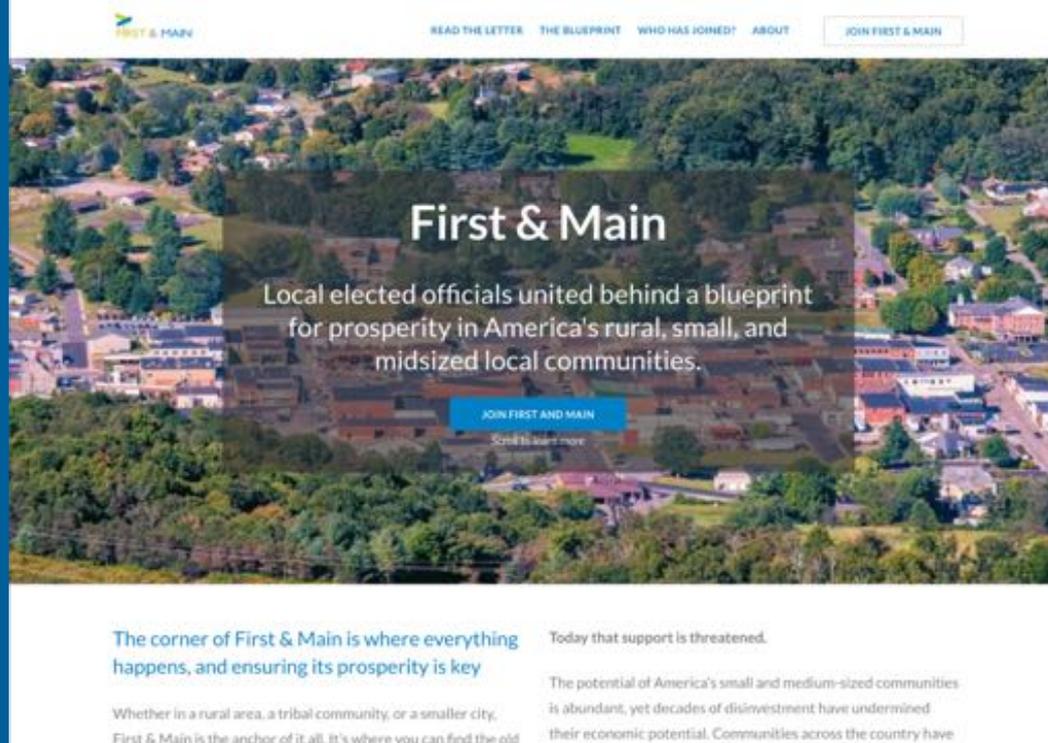
Mayors Tribal
County Leaders
Executives Town
Supervisors
Councilmembers

Call to Action

Local Government Leadership Needed Now

- With threats to critical federal programs, local government leaders can't stay on the sidelines
- The promise of federal spending today, and the threat to these programs tomorrow, must energize local elected officials to demand investment in communities
- Infrastructure proposals also need to recognize that localities have limited ability to provide exorbitant matches, privatize assets, toll roads, and attract Wall Street capital
- The First & Main campaign is a local government voice on these important matters





Learn more and get involved: www.firstandmain.org

- Read the Blueprint
- Watch a recording of our kickoff webinar
- Join First & Main (**no cost**) - if you are a local elected official
- Get your local elected officials to join – mayors, city council members, county board members, tribal leaders, and others

First & Main, and Maine

- Samantha Paradis - Mayor of Belfast, ME
- Mike Madore - Councilmember, City of Millinocket, ME



Samantha Paradis Mayor, Belfast, ME

“I’m proud to be mayor of such a beautiful and vibrant city where citizens are engaged contributors to our success.”

— Mayor Samantha Paradis



Belfast, ME



Michael Madore Councilmember, Millinocket, ME



Millinocket, ME



Thank you

Please join the First & Main coalition at our website.

Questions? Email info@firstandmain.org

www.firstandmain.org