How to Leverage Your Local Story to Unlock Federal Funding
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
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How have these and other federal programs helped fund projects and services in YOUR community?

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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
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.
“A Blueprint for Prosperity in America’s Local Communities”
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 midsized 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
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
The Coalition

150 Local Elected Leaders Across the Country are United behind the Blueprint
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.
Building Community Support

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

Mayors
Tribal Leaders
County 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