

# Downtown Bennettsville Business Guide

#MAINSTREETBENNETTSVILLE



# Table of Contents

**03**

WELCOME

**04**

WHAT IS MAIN STREET  
BENNETTSVILLE

**05**

THE MAIN STREET APPROACH

**06**

GETTING STARTED

**08**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**09**

CITY CONTACTS

**11**

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



# Welcome to Main Street Bennettsville!

**We are excited to have you join our vibrant downtown business community.**

Whether you're opening a retail shop, restaurant, or service-based business, this guide is designed to help you navigate the process of starting your business and connect you with the resources available through our Main Street program.



# What is Main Street Bennettsville?

As the economic engine for downtown Bennettsville's success, the Main Street Bennettsville program aims to beautify our streets, promote our local businesses, and improve the quality of life through cultural and community events. Established as a city department in 2018, Main Street Bennettsville implements the [Main Street Four-Point Approach](#) to create an economic and culturally vibrant downtown that both locals and visitors will enjoy. The mission of Main Street Bennettsville is to promote, improve, and preserve the unique character and economic vitality of downtown Bennettsville.

## Why Choose Main Street Bennettsville?

- **Prime Location:** Our downtown district is centrally located with foot traffic from locals and visitors.
- **Historic Charm:** The area is rich in history and offers unique, historic buildings perfect for creating a distinctive business environment.
- **Community Support:** As a Main Street business, you'll receive support through local marketing, events, and connections to business resources.
- **Cultural Events:** Participate in our annual events like the Downtown Dash & Bash, seasonal festivals, and holiday markets that draw visitors from all over.



# The Main Street Approach

The national Main Street® program was established in 1977 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help communities of all sizes revitalize their traditional and historic commercial districts. Currently, the National Main Street Center® is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



## Organization



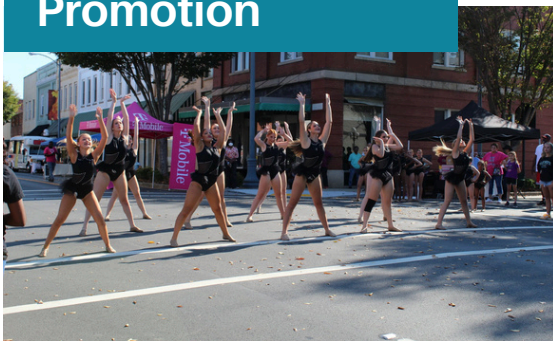
Collaborating to make Bennettsville a great place to live, work, and play.

## Design



Creating an attractive downtown while preserving Bennettsville's unique architectural features.

## Promotion



Marketing downtown and creating activities to build retail opportunity, community pride, and economic vitality

## Economic Vitality



Creating a vibrant retail climate downtown that meets the needs of locals and offers economic sustainability.

# Getting Started: Steps to Open Your Business



## Step 1: Business Planning

- **Refine Your Business Idea:** Make sure your business concept fits within the unique culture of downtown Bennettsville. Consider your target audience, what products or services you offer, and how you'll stand out.
- **Business Plan:** Develop a thorough business plan that outlines your vision, target market, competition, financial projections, and marketing strategies.



## Step 2: Contact Main Street Bennettsville

- Reach out to our team to schedule a consultation. We can provide insights into the local market, available properties, and connect you with resources that can assist in launching your business.





## Step 3: Choose a Location

- **Available Properties:** Main Street Bennettsville maintains a list of available properties downtown. Let us help you find a space that fits your business needs.
- **Zoning and Permits:** Ensure that your business complies with local zoning regulations. The City of Bennettsville's Planning and Zoning department can assist with building permits, signage, and occupancy approvals.



## Step 4: Legal Requirements

- **Register Your Business:** Register your business with the South Carolina Secretary of State and obtain a business license through the City of Bennettsville.
- **Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN):** If required, apply for an EIN from the IRS.



## Step 5: Financial Assistance

- **Grants & Incentives:** Main Street Bennettsville provides resources for small business grants to connect business owners with local, state, and federal funding opportunities. Ask about our Façade Improvement Grants to assist with exterior improvements to downtown properties.
- **Local Financial Institutions:** We can connect you with local banks and credit unions that specialize in small business loans.



## Step 6: Design & Renovation

- **Historic Preservation:** If your business is located in one of our historic buildings, consider how to maintain its charm while making necessary updates. We can provide design guidelines and recommendations for historic renovations.



# Community Engagement

As a downtown business owner, we encourage you to actively engage with the community. Participating in local events, partnering with other businesses, and contributing to community projects helps foster a thriving downtown. Some opportunities include:

- Downtown Market Days
- Trunk or Treat
- Scarecrow Festival
- Summer Concert Series
- Music on Main
- Small Business Saturday
- Annual Christmas Parade
- Community Clean-Up







# City Contacts

## Main Street Bennettsville

Brittany Jones

Business Development &  
Community Engagement  
Manager



843-479-9001 ext. 354



[www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street](http://www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street)



[brittany.jones@bennettsvillesc.com](mailto:brittany.jones@bennettsvillesc.com)

## Planning and Zoning

Denise Miller

Planning & Zoning Manager



843-479-9001 ext. 304



[www.bennettsvillesc.com/planning-zoning](http://www.bennettsvillesc.com/planning-zoning)



[denise.miller@bennettsvillesc.com](mailto:denise.miller@bennettsvillesc.com)

## Building Permitting

Chet Polson  
Building Official



843-479-9001 ext. 337



[www.bennettsvillesc.com/planning-zoning](http://www.bennettsvillesc.com/planning-zoning)



[chet.polson@bennettsvillesc.com](mailto:chet.polson@bennettsvillesc.com)

## Business Licensing

Michelle Hodges  
Business License Inspector



843-479-9001 ext. 317



[www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street](http://www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street)



[michelle.hodges@bennettsvillesc.com](mailto:michelle.hodges@bennettsvillesc.com)

## Fire Inspection

Donald Hamilton  
Fire Marshall



843-479-9001 ext. 349



[www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street](http://www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street)



[donald.hamilton@bennettsvillesc.com](mailto:donald.hamilton@bennettsvillesc.com)

## Utilities

Sierra Jones  
Utility Billing Manager



843-479-9001 ext. 336



[www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street](http://www.bennettsvillesc.com/main-street)



[sierra.jones@bennettsvillesc.com](mailto:sierra.jones@bennettsvillesc.com)

# Important Contacts

**South Carolina  
Department of Revenue  
Florence Service Center**

[www.sctax.org](http://www.sctax.org)

Physical Address  
1452 West Evans Street  
Florence SC 29501  
843.661.4850

**South Carolina  
Department of  
Environmental Services**

[www.des.sc.gov](http://www.des.sc.gov)

Physical Address  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia , SC 29201  
803.898.3432

**South Carolina  
Secretary of State**  
[www.sos.sc.gov/library\\_of\\_forms\\_and\\_fees](http://www.sos.sc.gov/library_of_forms_and_fees)

Physical Address  
Edgar Brown Building  
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite  
525 Columbia SC 29201  
803.734.2170

**South Carolina  
Business One Stop**  
[www.scbos.com](http://www.scbos.com)

[scboshelp@scbos.sc.gov](mailto:scboshelp@scbos.sc.gov)  
803.898.5690



**Small Business  
Development Center at  
Florence-Darlington  
Technical College**

[www.florencesbdc.org](http://www.florencesbdc.org)

Florence-Darlington  
Technical College  
P.O. Box 100548  
Florence, SC 29501-0548

**The United States  
Small Business  
Administration**

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

South Carolina District Office  
1835 Assembly Street Suite  
1425 Columbia, SC 29201  
803.765.5377

