



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ANTHONY M. COPELAND  
*Secretary*

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*For More Information, Contact: Hannah Harrill / (919) 814-4612*

## WARRENTON AND WASHINGTON EACH AWARDED FUNDS FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECTS

**Raleigh, N.C.** – The Town of Warrenton and City of Washington will each receive awards from the Main Street Solutions Fund, the N.C. Department of Commerce announced today. The Town of Warrenton will receive \$100,000 and Washington will receive \$200,000. Both awards will support downtown revitalization projects that preserve to historic buildings.

“Our small towns have much to offer families and businesses looking to grow and create a sense of community,” said N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland. “The Main Street Solutions Fund grants will help businesses bring jobs and new life to these historic landmarks.”

The Warrenton project will take a vacant corner building in the downtown historic district and renovate it to create the first combination brewery and meadery in North Carolina. The business intends to use ingredients sourced from local farmers and producers. Product names will honor other local businesses in the community.

In Washington, the vacant National Register-listed Bank of Washington II building on a prominent corner downtown will be rehabilitated. This grant supports the first phase of the project which will restore the exterior and create a restaurant and gin distillery on the first floor. A future second phase not funded by this grant will construct 14 boutique hotel rooms on the second and third floors.

“We are pleased to partner with communities throughout the state,” said Liz Parham, director of the North Carolina Main Street & Rural Planning Center. “Building renovations, facade improvements and new businesses ultimately help create new jobs in North Carolina.”

North Carolina Main Street and Small Town Main Street communities have experienced \$2.75 billion in public and private investment and a net gain of more than 23,400 jobs since program inception in 1980.

Warrenton and Washington are successfully following the principles of the National Main Street Center’s Main Street America™ program for downtown revitalization. The comprehensive approach identifies economic development strategies that will transform downtown through the implementation of action in economic vitality, design, promotion and organization.

For additional information about the Main Street program and the Main Street Solutions Fund, visit [www.nccommerce.com/MainStreet](http://www.nccommerce.com/MainStreet), or contact Liz Parham, director of the North Carolina Main Street & Rural Planning Center at (919) 814-4658.