**Do the local communities with National Register Historic Districts or Individually Listed Historic Buildings applying for a SIGNS grant need to get prior approval from SHPO for the signs? We are worried about the grant running out of money before we get our SHPO approval.**

You do not have to have prior approval from SHPO to submit. For the SIGNS grant, Commerce will be submitting the signs for SHPO approval as required by Kansas State Preservation Law.

**Are there additional preservation guidelines for signs and awnings in Historic Districts?**

Yes. Please use these guidelines if you are working in a historic district because it will streamline the approval process.

Here are guidelines provided by the Kansas SHPO:

[Design Guidelines for Signage](https://www.kansashistory.gov/preserve/pdfs/KP%20sign%20Brochure_single_reduced.pdf)

[Design Guidelines for Awnings](https://www.kansashistory.gov/preserve/pdfs/KP%20Awning%20Brochure_single.pdf)

And here are guidelines from the National Park Service:

[Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts.](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-11-storefronts.pdf)

[The Preservation of Historic Signs.](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-25-signs.pdf)

[The Use of Awnings on Historic Buildings: Repair, Replacement and New Design.](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/preservation-brief-44-awnings.pdf)

[Adding Awnings to Historic Storefronts and Entrances, ITS No. 27](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/its-27-awnings-storefronts-entrances.pdf)

**If a building has a flat roof aluminum awning with diagonal tension rods, would building a new sloped fabric awning over the top of this 1950s structure be an acceptable use of the SIGNS grant, provided that it incorporates a sign in the awning?**

It would be preferable to do a new awning that more closely fits the original storefront opening and does not rise into the brick facade above the storefront opening. It would however, be acceptable to cover the existing awning with a new awning since you are not rebuilding or repairing the old awning. You are simply building a new frame and fabric awning over the top of an existing 1950s flat roof aluminum awning. Main Street Design Standards prefer a sign on the valance or end cap of the awning, but SIGNS guidelines do permit signage on the sloped surface of the awning.

**I’m wondering if you know who manufactures the metal brackets for blade signs – we are looking at the Signs grant/match and I’d like to march a whole lotta ‘somewhat matching’ signs that have matching brackets so we don’t go all willy-nilly.  I can’t get my local metal benders to bite on the project!  Let me know what you know.**

Kansas Main Street sent this website. It sells various brackets and hardware for signage.

[https://www.signbracketstore.com/sign-brackets/blade-signs/?srsltid=AfmBOop\_HHtaCDhsvz8WuFdaArghl9SHa0LKH6obJFQApNyD1C9mZp23](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.signbracketstore.com%2Fsign-brackets%2Fblade-signs%2F%3Fsrsltid%3DAfmBOop_HHtaCDhsvz8WuFdaArghl9SHa0LKH6obJFQApNyD1C9mZp23&data=05%7C02%7CRobert.J.Mclaughlin%40ks.gov%7Cdde2f66f408c4be2421608dd7b6fbcf3%7Cdcae8101c92d480cbc43c6761ccccc5a%7C0%7C0%7C638802442020226901%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5gTCZoYJdtZJHteWUPTbQ059egULCRpGPl2privcvn8%3D&reserved=0)

Care should be taken that the brackets mount into the mortar joints of masonry buildings and that the installers do not drill into the stone or brick directly.

**What do you mean by “downtown”?**

A downtown is generally understood as the central business or commercial district of a city or town. It is often the hub of economic, cultural, and social activity. While it may feature the "main street," a downtown can encompass a broader area that includes shops, offices, restaurants, entertainment venues, and public spaces like parks or squares.

**What if my small town's commercial district is along a highway and doesn't really have a "main street"? Can signs be done in that area?**

Yes, signs can be done in that area. Since your town’s commercial district is located along a highway and lacks a traditional “main street,” but functions as the downtown—based on your definition as the central hub of economic and social activity—then signage improvements within that defined commercial corridor are eligible under the SIGNS grant.

**Are freestanding signs allowed?**

Freestanding signs *are* eligible under the SIGNS grant if they meet the following conditions:

* They are existing signs (not new installations).
* They are located directly in front of a commercial building.
* They are not highway signs or directional signage (e.g., signs pointing to off-site locations or wayfinding signs).

So, if your freestanding sign is currently installed, situated right in front of your business, and not serving as general directional signage, it would likely qualify for funding under the SIGNS grant.

**Do you have a list of sign fabricators?**

Kansas Commerce has a small list. It should in no way be construed as a recommendation or as an exhaustive list of everyone who makes signs in the state. Please be sure to do your own due diligence, check references and get multiple quotes from multiple suppliers.

Commercial Sign Company

Joe Leiker

Hays and Colby, KS

866-468-7446

[Office@commercialsigncompany.com](mailto:Office@commercialsigncompany.com)

Coffelt Signs

Staci Hamman

Emporia KS 66801

620-343-6411

coffeltsigns.com

[Signs@coffeltsigns.com](mailto:Signs@coffeltsigns.com)

Midtown Signs

Dennis Baughman

Kansas City KS 66103

816-561-7446

midtownsigns.com

Apple One Media Sign & Awning

Brian Isaacson

Belleville KS 66935

785-527-8042

appleonemedia.com

[brian@appleonemedia.com](mailto:brian@appleonemedia.com)

Colby Canvas Company

(Awnings Only)

Colby KS 67701

785-4623981

colbycanvas.com

Wright Signs

Parsons KS 67357

620-421-1011

wrightsignsonline.com

[sales@thewrightsign.com](mailto:sales@thewrightsign.com)

Marks Custom Signs

67 NE 20 Rd.

Great Bend KS 67530

620-792-5632

marksigns.com

Sign Brothers

Josh Young

Pittsburg KS 66762

620-240-4102 Shop

620-203-0592 Cell

sign-brothers.com

Freestyle Sign Co.

1925 N. Broadway St.

Wichita KS 67214

316 267-5507

freestylesignco.net

Lumineo Signs

Kansas City

913-780-3330

Wichita

316-202-2025

Lawrence

785-842-4930

Topeka

785-267-2625

Hutchinson

620-662-2363

Salina

785-823-1789

Western Kansas

620-227-2307

lumineosigns.com

Young Sign Co.

326 Choctaw St.

Leavenworth KS 66048

913-651-5432

youngsigncompany.com