



## News Release

February 17, 2016

For more information contact:

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### Open 4 Business Grant Contest Now Open

Do you have a great business idea? Have you always wanted to own a business in downtown Centerville? Is your current business planning to expand services or add a new product line?

Main Street Centerville is looking for interested entrepreneurs who could use \$28,000 to launch or grow their business idea within the Centerville Main Street district. The *Open 4 Business* contest, launched in 2015, is an opportunity for businesses located within a state-designated Main Street district, to compete for a chance to win up to \$28,000 in grant funds to assist with a business development or expansion project that will benefit the local community. Businesses must complete an application and present a "business pitch" to a panel of judges outlining their business idea and how it will benefit the local economic climate in their community. A 25% cash match is required. The grant funds are administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority's Downtown Resource Center and Main Street Iowa program.

Contact your local Centerville Main Street office to get your application and instructions for this grant opportunity. Deadline for the local program is May 3<sup>rd</sup> by 4 pm at the Main Street Office 307 N 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Centerville, Iowa. If you need assistance please contact Mary (assistance is free for Main Street Investors, small fee for non-investors) Each designated Main Street community may submit one local business applicant that will represent Centerville at the sub-state competitions held in five locations across the state on June 13-16, 2016. Sub-state winners will receive \$8,000 and advance to the state contest which will be held in Mason City, Iowa the evening of August 2, 2016. The state winner will win an additional \$20,000.

For complete details about this program, please contact Mary Wells at 641.895.2088 or Robin Bostrom, Business Specialist, Iowa Downtown Resource Center/Main Street Iowa at 515.725.3053 or [robin.bostrom@iowa.gov](mailto:robin.bostrom@iowa.gov).