African American Civil Rights (AACR)



The 16th Street Baptist Church was the site of a 1963 bombing in Birmingham, Alabama. Photo courtesy of 16th Street Baptist Church.

The goal of the African American Civil Rights grant program is to preserve and protect sites associated with the struggle for equality from the transatlantic slave trade forward. Additional funding will also be available to tell the civil rights story of all Americans through a separate notice of funding for fiscal year (FY) 2022.

Who May Apply

- States and Territories
- Indian Tribes that meet the definition in 54 USC 300309 and Native Hawaiian Organizations that meet the definition in 54 USC 300314
- Local Governments, including Certified Local Governments
- Non-profit Organizations

What Is Funded

Pre-preservation and Preservation Projects

- Preservation projects must range from $75,000 to $750,000 in federal share, of which 20% may go toward pre-preservation costs such as architectural or engineering services. Grant applications that solely involve pre-preservation work must range from $15,000 to $75,000.
- Preservation projects fund physical preservation of a historic site to include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Projects must comply with laws, such as Section 106 and NEPA, and execute a preservation covenant/easement.
- Eligible costs: pre-preservation studies, architectural plans and specifications, historic structure reports, and the repair and rehabilitation of historic properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation.
- Properties must be **listed in or eligible for** listing in the National Register of Historic Places or designated a National Historic Landmark either individually or as part of a district.

History Projects

- History grant projects must range from $15,000 to $75,000 in federal share.
- Eligible costs include survey, planning, and documentation of historic sites/events, creation of interpretive and educational materials around significant sites (including oral histories), and conservation of significant civil rights collections.
- Successful applications will emphasize innovative strategies, creative projects with measurable results, and include cross-generational engagement that promote and preserve the community's civil rights resources. Projects should involve public-private partnerships and serve as models to communities nationwide. Your project must fit one of the categories listed below. If a project overlaps more than one category, select the dominant category.
    1. Survey and Planning
    2. Research and Documentation
    3. Interpretation and Education
    4. Collections Conservation

What Is Not Funded

- Construction of new buildings
- Acquisition of collections or historic sites
- Long-term maintenance or curatorial work beyond the grant period
- Reconstructing historic properties (recreating all or a significant portion that no longer exists)
- Moving or work on moved historic properties that are no longer eligible for listing in the NRHP
- Cash reserves, endowments, revolving funds, or fund-raising costs
- Work performed prior to announcement of award
- Lobbying or advocacy activities
- Costs for work already completed or funded through other federal programs
- Administrative costs may not be over 25% of project budget
- Miscellaneous costs, contingencies, reserves, and overhead

Selection Process

NPS personnel and qualified Federal employees will review all complete proposals using the criteria outlined below. Reviewers' evaluations are based solely on the material provided in the application. **Additional materials not specifically required by the application, and materials sent separately from the application, will not be considered.** A summary of the review panel comments may be provided to the applicant if requested after the grant process is complete. Panel recommendations will be made to the Secretary of the Interior who will select successful applicants and forward to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. NPS will conduct risk assessments on all projects prior to funding. Matching funds are not required but may be considered as part of the evaluation process.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Project descriptions must address, and applications will be rated on, each of the criteria listed below. NPS will evaluate and consider only **complete** applications that separately address each of the five criteria. All criteria are rated equally. You are required to provide a detailed narrative of these elements using the project description and budget justification worksheets.

1. **Significance:** Describe the historic resource(s) in the proposed project that played a role in the African American struggle for civil rights. Describe the community and the historic resources affected by this project including its significance and whether they are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or designated at the state, tribal, or local level. Discuss how your project will help identify and preserve places seminal to the story of African American civil rights.
2. **Need/Urgency/Threat:** Describe the need, urgency, and threat the project addresses and how the activities are necessary and will mitigate that threat. Discuss how the project is the next logical step toward the resource's preservation.
3. **Feasibility:** Describe all tasks and their results. Discuss your timeline (located below) and budget justification (separate document) to show that costs are necessary, reasonable, and allowable. Demonstrate how you will successfully complete the project within the given time frame (2-3 years) and with the given resources while meeting all federal requirements and guidelines. Briefly describe who will be involved in carrying out the project and their qualifications, attach resumes/CVs as applicable.
4. **Sustainability:** Describe the impacts of the project after completion, including long lasting effects. Describe the public-private partnerships and community engagement involved in the project and how these partnerships will sustain and continue to support the resources after the grant project is complete. For Preservation projects, describe the plan for continued maintenance. If previously funded, please describe the progress made to date.

Process and Deadlines

This program is administered by the National Park Service. Congress has appropriated $21,750,000 for this grant program in Fiscal Year 2022. Applications are anticipated to open in Summer of 2022 and are due in Fall of 2022. All applications must be made through Grants.gov. No paper applications will be accepted. Registration in Grants.gov, SAM.gov, and other federal systems can take up to four weeks, so please start early. To be notified when the opportunity opens, please go to Grants.gov and subscribe to a saved search for CFDA 15.904.

Additional Information

Visit **http://go.nps.gov/civilrightsgrant** for more information about this grant program.

For more information on our other programs, please visit www.nps.gov/stlpg

For application assistance:
National Park Service
STLPG@nps.gov
202-354-2020

For Grants.gov assistance:
support@grants.gov
1-800-518-4726