Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)



Sweeney Hall at LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee. Courtesy of LeMoyne-Owen College.

Who May Apply

- All accredited HBCU institutions listed at https://nces.ed.gov.
- 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. Projects that are not listed on the National Register must include a nomination or amendment to an existing nomination as part of their project

What Is Funded

- Preservation projects that fund physical preservation of historic sites to include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Projects must comply with Section 106, NEPA, and execute a preservation covenant/easement.
- Eligible costs include pre-preservation studies, architectural plans and specifications, historic structure reports, campus-wide preservation plans, National Register nominations and amendments, and the repair and rehabilitation of historic properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

What Is Not Funded

- Construction of new buildings
- Acquisition of collections or historic sites
- Conservation of collections, except as part of gathering oral history documentation
- Long-term maintenance or curatorial work beyond the grant period
- Reconstructing historic properties (recreating all or a significant portion that no longer exists or was removed)
- 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

Grant Amounts

The minimum grant request in $50,000 Federal share. The maximum grant request is $750,000 Federal share. Please note that the selection panel may, at its discretion, award less than the minimum grant request. Matching funds are not required, but may be considered as part of the evaluation process.

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.

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 four 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 and the role it/they played in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) experience. Discuss National Register significance and the integrity of the resource. Describe how well the project will result in the recognition, understanding, and preservation of the resource.
2. **Need/Urgency/Threat:** Describe the current condition of the historic property and explain how it is threatened or endangered. The source(s), nature, extent, and severity of the threat, danger, or damage to the property must be clearly and convincingly argued. Discuss how the project is the next logical step toward the resource's preservation.
3. **Mitigation of Threat:** Project must substantially mitigate or eliminate the threat, danger, or damage described and must have a clear public benefit (for example, historic places open for visitation or public use). Clearly state what preservation activities will be undertaken as part of this project and how they will follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation.
4. **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 requirement and guidelines. Briefly describe who will be involved in carrying out the project and their qualifications, attach resumes/CVs as applicable.

Process and Deadlines

This program is administered by the National Park Service. Congress has appropriated $10 million for this grant program in Fiscal Year 2022. Applications are anticipated to open in Fall of 2022 and are due Winter of 2023. 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.

Additional Information

Visit http://go.nps.gov/hbcu 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