

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2025

GRANT GUIDELINES

*completed grant applications must be submitted ONLINE by
July 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.*

Access the online grant application from:

mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants.aspx

**Maryland Commission on
African American History and Culture**
84 Franklin Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.africanamerican.maryland.gov

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
www.mht.maryland.gov



The **African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program** (or the "Program") was created by the General Assembly in 2010 as a vehicle to encourage the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. Administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), the Program offers assistance to non-profit organizations, local jurisdictions, business entities and private citizens in their sponsorship of successful acquisition, construction, or improvement of African American heritage properties.

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation. MCAAHC is housed within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Maryland Historical Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage.

The Maryland Historical Trust is a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

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General Information

The **African American Heritage Preservation Program** (the Program) encourages the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. The program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

Individual grant awards range from a suggested minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$250,000. An applicant entity may only submit one application per property; however, each applicant entity may submit separate applications for properties on different parcels.

Getting Started / Contact Info

Before beginning your application, please review these guidelines, also available on the program webpage here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants-AAHPP.aspx>

We strongly recommend that you contact MHT and MCAAHC staff before applying to confirm that your project is eligible and to obtain appropriate guidance.

- For assistance in developing project purpose, programming, and advice on site interpretation please contact Chanel Compton-Johnson, Director of the MCAAHC, at chanel.compton@maryland.gov or 410-216-6190.
- For assistance with developing technical preservation, construction, and budget components of your project, or with technical questions about the application, please contact Stacy Montgomery, MHT Capital Programs Administrator, at stacy.montgomery@maryland.gov or 410-697-9559

Eligible Applicants

The following entity types are eligible for this program. The project must have a demonstrated public benefit in order to be competitive.

- Nonprofits
- Local governments
- Business entities
- Individuals

State and federal government entities are eligible to apply as nonprofits. However, projects involving state and federally owned properties cannot comply with the requirement to convey a preservation easement to MHT.

See “Applicant Tab” section of this document for more information on applicant eligibility.

Eligible Projects

Construction-related projects are eligible for assistance. Projects must also have a strong public benefit in order to be competitive. Projects may include:

- Acquisition
- Rehabilitation / capital improvements
- New construction
- Predevelopment costs such as studies, surveys, plans and specifications, and architectural, engineering, or other special services **directly related to a capital project**

Work, or a discrete phase of work, that is already underway or completed is not eligible for grant funding. See Exhibit 3 of this document for a complete list of eligible and ineligible costs.

All projects funded through this program are subject to MHT review before project work commences and must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR 68), found at <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/treatment-standards-rehabilitation.htm>.

See "Project Description Tab" section of this document for more information on eligible projects.

Eligible Properties

- Eligible properties include buildings, sites, or communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. They do not have to be historic properties.
- The property owner must provide written permission to undertake the project and willingness to convey the preservation easement.
 - The owner of a historic property that is either individually eligible or individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places may be required to convey a preservation easement to MHT. Visit <https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/easement/easement.aspx> for more information.

See the "Property Information Tab" section of this document for more information on property eligibility.

Application Process

Grant applications will be due at 11:59 pm on July 1, 2024.

Access the online application portal at: mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants.aspx

Access the program webpage here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants-AAHPP.aspx>

What to know about the online application:

- The application is organized in tabs by topic. These guidelines are organized in sections that correspond to the application tabs.
- All questions with a **red asterisk (*)** require answers. You will not be able to submit your application without answering these questions.
- When you have submitted your application successfully, you will see a confirmation message on the screen, and you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Resources:

- A sample application is available on the program webpage in the left-hand menu.
- A "Quick Start" guide is available on the program webpage in the left-hand menu. This guide has instructions for using the online application system and uploading files.

“Project Description” Tab

In this section you will describe the **proposed construction project**. Please describe **ONLY** the construction project in this section. Other sections of the application will provide the opportunity for you to describe your organization, the history of the property, and how your property benefits the public.

Construction Project Description – describe your overall construction project, including all phases of work that will be funded through other sources.

Grant Project Scope of Work – provide a list of **ONLY** work items that will be paid for with grant funds.

Urgency – describe the urgent needs of the property in order of priority. Will this project fund the most urgent needs, or will those needs be addressed in an earlier phase of work? Alternately, does this project provide a unique, time-limited opportunity?

Key Steps and Timeline – provide bullet points of the major steps in the project. Be sure to note which steps will be paid for with grant funds. Demonstrate that you can complete the project within the two-year grant window. See **Exhibit 1 for the application and award schedule** to inform your project timeline. See **Exhibit 2 for a sample timeline**.

Please ensure that the proposed grant project is an eligible project.

- **To be eligible, work must consist of construction-related costs with an expected useful life of at least 15 years.**
 - Rehabilitation, restoration, or repair of a building.
 - Construction of a new structure or addition.
 - Acquisition of a property.
 - Pre-development costs that are part of a construction project, for example:
 - historic structure reports
 - architectural plans, specifications, and construction documents
 - archaeological investigations necessary for construction
 - cemetery conservation plan
 - Examples of ineligible costs: staff salaries, landscaping, legal fees, insurance premiums, appraisal fees, pest treatment, master planning, and feasibility studies. **See Exhibit 3 for a more in-depth list of ineligible costs.**
- **Work must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (36CFR Part 68).**
 - If your application does not and cannot meet the *Standards*, your application will not be considered for funding.
 - The *Standards* are available on the National Park Service website:
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/treatment-standards-rehabilitation.htm>

- **Grant funds may only be used for a new phase of work.**
 - Projects must meet MHT’s competitive procurement process, so grant funds may not be used for work that is already underway or complete.
 - Contact the MHT program administrator if you need help describing a discrete phase of work.
- **Special property types:**
 - **Religious properties**
 - usually only eligible for exterior and/or structural work
 - spaces used primarily for religious purposes are not eligible
 - interior work is only eligible in spaces that are not used for worship or religious purposes (e.g., bathrooms, a sanctuary that has been converted to a secular use, or a fellowship hall mainly used for non-religious activities)
 - religious symbolism is not eligible for funding
 - if eligible, building elements that feature religious symbolism, such as stained-glass windows, will be divided by structural component or window sash.
 - eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis so contact the MHT program administrator for more information
 - **Cemeteries**
 - examples of eligible capital expenses:
 - cleaning or repair of grave markers
 - repair or installation of cemetery features like paths or protective walls
 - installation of new monuments or markers for unmarked burials
 - pre-development that will lead to a capital project, like a cemetery conservation plan or ground-penetrating radar to identify unmarked burials
 - make sure the owner(s) of the cemetery can be identified and will support the project

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

PROJECT SCOPE & PROTECTIVE VALUE: Does the proposed project contribute to or assure long-term preservation of the resource or of Maryland’s culture and heritage? Does the project provide concrete action to protect the resource(s)? Does the project address the most pressing needs and assure continued viability of the resource(s)? Will the project provide a complete product? (If one phase of a multi-year project, this refers to the completeness of this year’s phase alone.) Will this be the final phase of a project that is nearing completion? Will the project design minimize long-term maintenance costs?

URGENCY: Is the resource imminently endangered (i.e., by development pressures, erosion, neglect) or is there a unique window of opportunity to complete the proposed project?

PROJECT SCHEDULE: Can the project begin when indicated, i.e., does the Applicant reflect an awareness of when grant funding will be available? Can the work be completed within 2 years? Has a realistic sequence with appropriate work steps been developed? Is the project phased, if appropriate?

“Budget” Tab

On this tab, you will be asked to describe the **budget for your grant project in detail**. Make sure that the line items in your budget spreadsheet match the project narrative you described on the “Project Description” tab.

Project Budget Information You Will Provide

- **Upload a budget spreadsheet using MHT’s form.**
 - The spreadsheet can be downloaded within the application, or from the MHT website in the "For Grant Applicants" menu at <https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants-AAHPP-resources.aspx>
 - The spreadsheet contains a sample budget, a blank form, and instructions for filling out the blank form.
 - **PLEASE UPLOAD THE BUDGET SPREADSHEET AS AN EXCEL FILE AND NOT A PDF.**
- **Application questions:**
 - **Grant Funds Requested**
 - Grant requests should range from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$250,000.
 - Grant requests should be in an even increment of \$1,000.
 - Make sure all items in your grant request are eligible. For example, costs like insurance, utility bills, and legal fees are not eligible. **See Exhibit 3 for a table which describes ineligible costs.**
 - **Other Project Funds**
 - Document any **non-state and state funds that are committed** to the grant project. Identify the source and amount of these funds and also include them in the “Other Project Funds” and “**Other State Funds (please specify source),” respectively**, columns of the budget spreadsheet.
 - **Other Financial Components**
 - If you have received state funds that will be used for this grant project, describe them here. Some examples include MHAA grants, MHT Capital grants, CORE funds, or bond bill funds.
 - If you are actively seeking funds to pay for this phase of the project, describe your fundraising and needs here. This helps reviewers understand your efforts to complete the entire proposed phase of work.

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

PROJECT BUDGET: Is the overall Budget realistic for the proposed project? Are the costs reasonable and customary? Are all costs eligible? If the project is for a church, is expenditure on spaces used for religious activities excluded from the grant funding request?

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY: Does the sponsoring group provide any other project funds for the project? How much other project funds are offered by the sponsor? Does the project have a projected useful life of

more than 15 years? Does the Applicant demonstrate a financial commitment to the project over at least 15 years?

“Public Benefit” Tab

On this tab you will discuss the **public benefit, educational value, and public access of your property and project.**

Property use

- Include a brief explanation of how the property is currently used.
- If the grant project will cause a change in use, or a major change is anticipated in the near future, please also briefly describe that here.
- If this is a religious site, please explain whether it is actively used for worship or has been converted for secular use. See the previous “Project Description Tab” section for information on project eligibility for religious sites.

What is the benefit of the property and/or project to the public and local community?

- Public benefit can be broadly defined, but special emphasis should be placed on benefit related to MCAAHC’s and MHT’s missions and African American heritage in Maryland.

How is the property used to educate the public?

- How does (or will) the site contribute to increase public awareness and understanding of African American heritage in Maryland?
- How do the goals of the project relate to MCAAHC’s and MHT’s missions?
- How will this project and use of the site help protect the resource in the future?
- How will you ensure that the general public will learn about your property or project?

Public Access

- What provisions exist or will be made for physical or programmatic access by individuals with disabilities?
- When/how often is the property open to the public?

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

PROJECT GOALS: Are project goals and scope consistent with the mission and goals of the MCAAHC and MHT? Does the proposed work appear to conform to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards?

PUBLIC BENEFIT: What is the planned use of the project and what are its benefits to the general public? What level of public access will be provided? How will information about the project be made available to the public? Will the project be accessible to individuals with disabilities?

EDUCATIONAL & DEMONSTRATION VALUE: How permanent and far reaching is the educational component of the project? Does the project offer interpretation of the site, heritage, or resource? What opportunities are available for participation of or benefit especially to African Americans? Does the project have the potential to be a model or an innovator?

“Significance & Impact” Tab

On this tab you will **describe the property, its history and significance, and the impact of the project.**

Property Significance

- For properties that relate to African American history or culture in Maryland, explain this relationship and significance.
- For new construction or properties that do not have a historical association with the African American experience in Maryland, explain how your organization will relate the site to African American history or culture. For example, will this involve the construction of a new museum, or the conversion of an existing building to a museum? How is this project significant to African American heritage?

Impact

- Will this project use unique or innovative techniques that may be a model for other projects, particularly projects related to African American heritage?
- Does this site support community groups or is it used to promote unique partnerships or community opportunities?

Special Initiative

Each year, MCAAHC, at its discretion, selects a special initiative which may be addressed by applicants.

- The special initiative is ASALH’s annual theme, which can be found here: <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>
- If applicable, describe how that initiative or theme is related to your project.

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT: To what extent will the project identify and preserve buildings, sites, resources, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland?

LEVERAGE: Will the project stimulate or prompt other preservation projects or programs throughout the community and/or professional preservation support?

ASALH Theme: Will the project address the annual Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme?

“Property Information” Tab

On this tab you will provide information about the **assisted property and the property owner**.

Required Information

- **Address of the project property**
 - This should be the physical address of the property where the grant project will be undertaken, NOT your organization’s address. Please include the full street address **and city**.
 - If there is no street address, please attach a map showing the exact location of the property. Be sure there are identifying landmarks on the map, like street names.
- **History of Construction / Alterations** – If known, please provide the approximate date of construction of the property, as well as the dates of any significant alterations or additions completed in the past.
- **Property Owner Information***
 - Provide the name and address of the property owner.
 - Briefly describe the relationship between your organization and the property owner – are you a fiscal sponsor, a lessee of the property, the property manager?
- **Property Owner Consent***
 - You **MUST** provide a letter of property owner consent, even if the owner and applicant are the same. This letter **MUST** include the language in the sample letter in Exhibit 5. You can download a template of this letter on the program webpage.
 - **Without this letter indicating the property owner’s willingness to allow the project and to convey a preservation easement to MHT, your application will NOT be considered for funding.** MHT must be able to confirm that the individual or organization identified in the letter of property owner consent is the correct legal owner of the property or your application will not be considered for funding.
- **Photos of the Property**
 - Please include 10 or more photographs. The best way to submit photos is to create a Word document and paste the photos into it and either submit it as a Word Document or convert this to a PDF and submit that. Please include brief photo captions or descriptions of photos.

*MHT will use the property listing in the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to confirm the name of the property owner. MHT will also compare this information with what is provided in the letter of property owner consent. If MHT cannot find your property on the SDAT website, or the information does not match what you have provided, your application will not be considered for funding. Please check here to ensure there are no issues: <https://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx>

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION: Compares each county's share of MHT grant funds awarded to African American heritage projects, based on MHT grants from FY2017 – FY2024, a mathematically equitable distribution of available funds to all counties.

“Project Management” Tab

On this tab you will address the **ability of your organization to administer projects and grants** of this type.

- **Your organization’s experience**
 - Have you successfully managed other grant projects, or similar projects requiring reporting and financial documentation?
 - Has your organization successfully managed a construction or renovation project?
- **Future maintenance:** What are your plans for maintaining the site in the future?
- **Administrative capability:** Identify up to three individuals in your organization who will be involved in managing the project and provide either a short resume or narrative paragraph explaining their relevant expertise.
- **Consultants and partners**
 - Are there professionals outside of your organization who have helped with developing your project? For example, architects, contractors, or archaeological consultants?
 - Optional: you can upload ballpark estimates in this section if an architect or contractor has provided you with information to help inform your project or budget.
 - ***Please note that once a grant is awarded, all contractors or consultants whose services are to be paid out of the grant funds must be selected through a competitive procurement process acceptable to MHT. For the purposes of this grant application, it is acceptable for you to obtain a cost estimate from a single firm for planning purposes; however, please be aware that competitive procurement will need to be conducted once a grant is awarded.***

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY: Do the project sponsor and administrative personnel demonstrate the capability to successfully administer grant monies, meet project deadlines, and follow established procedures? Does the project sponsor have the capability to maintain the project overtime?

PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITY: Has the applicant sought advice from personnel with the necessary training, education, and experience to carry out specific project goals (i.e., recognized in field, does high quality work, experience applicable to the subject)?

“Applicant” Tab

On this tab you will enter information about the **organization that is applying for the grant**. MHT uses this information to confirm your organization’s eligibility to receive a grant.

Non-profit organizations (state and federal government entities may apply as nonprofits) and **local jurisdictions**, as defined in COMAR 34.04.09, are eligible to apply for Program funding. **Private individuals** and **business entities** may also sponsor grants; however, they should be aware that the selection criteria typically favor the selection of projects and properties owned or sponsored by non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. To be competitive, projects sponsored by private individuals and for-profit business entities must involve a predominantly “public purpose” use, rather than a private benefit.

Required Applicant Information

- **Legal Name** – non-profits and business entities must be registered to do business with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT):
<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>
 - The name you provide must match EXACTLY the legal name as registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). Check your organization’s legal name to confirm. If MHT cannot find your organization in SDAT, you may be deemed ineligible.
 - If your organization is not already registered, contact SDAT to register, allowing time to ensure the registration process can be completed before the application deadline.
 - Your organization must be in good standing with SDAT. When looking up your organization on the website, clicking on the “Department ID” next to your organization’s name will show the status. “Active,” “Revived,” or “Incorporated” means your organization is in good standing. “Forfeited” or “Dissolved” means you must contact SDAT to resolve any outstanding issues.
 - Your SDAT information must be up to date – make sure the Resident Agent is correct.
- **TAX ID / Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
 - Non-profits, businesses, and government agencies will have a 9-digit number.
 - Individuals / private owners that do not have an EIN or other tax identifier, enter N/A. DO NOT ENTER A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.
- **Proof of Non-Profit Status (if applicable)**
 - Upload a copy of your IRS determination letter.
 - If your tax-exempt status is through a larger organization, you will need what the IRS calls an umbrella letter that documents your permission to use the larger organization’s status. This is particularly common for churches and fraternal organizations.
- **Organizational Documents** – non-profits and businesses must upload organizational documents like bylaws and articles of incorporation. If you have applied for an MHT grant within the last 5 years, you do not need to submit these again unless they have changed.
- **Project Contact** – The project contact you designate in your application will receive ALL correspondence and notifications regarding the grant application and award status. Be sure to keep this information up to date with MHT.

“Support” Tab

On this tab you will provide information about **letters of support for your project.**

Please submit or request to be submitted at least two letters of support. One of these should be from an elected official from your project’s local jurisdiction. Others may be from community leaders or state representatives.

- Electronic letters are preferred.
- If you have a **SIGNED** copy of a letter of support, you may upload it with your application (please do not upload unsigned letters, they will not be accepted).
- Your supporters may email signed letters to: barbara.fisher@maryland.gov
- Your supporters may mail signed letters to the address below:

Taylor Means
Research & Preservation Specialist Lead
Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
c/o Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

LOCAL COMMITMENT: Is the project supported by Legislative, County, and local government representatives?

“Release & Consent” Tab

This tab includes disclosures for your response as well as an electronic signature. If you have any questions about the content of this tab, please contact the program administrator.

“Attachments” Tab

This tab allows you to upload documents in support of your application.

- Other documentation is **OPTIONAL** but may strengthen your application. Other documents may include structural reports, historic structures reports, archaeological reports, etc.
- Please only include documents which are referenced on the "Attachments" tab, and which are directly relevant to the grant application.

Grant Terms and Conditions

All applicants awarded grants through the Program will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with MHT, which generally contains the following standard terms and conditions:

- Easement / Preservation Agreement
 - An easement must be conveyed to MHT on any historic real property awarded a grant through this program. A preservation agreement must be conveyed to MHT on any historic property OTHER THAN real property that is awarded a grant through this program.
 - For more information, see Exhibit 4.
- Project Scope & Budget
 - Award of grant funds does not mean automatic approval of your project scope and budget. After award, minor adjustments may be made by MHT to ensure that only eligible expenses and eligible work are paid for through grant. Do not commence work on this phase of the project without contacting your project monitor.
- Grant Disbursements
 - Grant funds will not be disbursed "up front." Disbursements will be made as the project progresses.
 - Grant disbursement will occur based upon Requests for Payment submitted by the grant recipient in a form satisfactory to the Trust and upon fulfillment of the other requirements of the grant as provided in the Grant Manual.
 - Please note that all contractors, architects, craftspeople, etc. whose services are to be paid for (or partially paid for) with State funds will need to be selected by a process approved by the Trust. This requires those services to be publicly advertised or widely solicited. *It is not expected that grant applicants have already conducted competitive procurement at the time of application.*
- Insurance
 - The Grant recipient will be required to insure the assisted property against loss or damage by fire, flood, or other hazards, casualties, and contingencies as may be required by MHT, in amounts satisfactory to MHT and with MHT as named additional insured. Similarly, General Liability Insurance will be required for all construction efforts. Insurance coverages shall be provided by a company that is registered with the Maryland Insurance Agency and authorized to do business in the State.
- Standing with SDAT
 - Your organization must maintain good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation before MHT will execute a grant agreement and must maintain good standing throughout the course of the project. To verify your organization's standing, please check here:
<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>

Exhibit 1: Application Evaluation & Grant Administration Schedule

*****All dates are approximate*****

The application and selection process will follow a prescribed schedule, outlined below. Please be sure to take this schedule into consideration when developing your schedule for the grant application.

Spring 2024 Official announcement of Grant Application availability and workshop schedule. MCAAHC and MHT staff assistance is available for help completing applications, for project planning, and for identifying sources of alternate funding.

July 1, 2024 Full Grant Application must be submitted ONLINE by 11:59 p.m. Submission must include a completed application and all required attachments.

July 2024 – October 2024 Application Evaluation and Scoring: After an initial "threshold" review (for application completeness and project and applicant eligibility) conducted by MHT and MCAAHC staff, the MCAAHC will evaluate, rank, and recommend funding levels for eligible applicants. The Commission will then recommend to the MHT Board of Trustees eligible application summaries, rankings, and funding levels. The MHT Board of Trustees will review each grant award recommended by the Commission. *Please note that MHT and MCAAHC cannot discuss the evaluation of your grant application or disclose whether or not your project will be funded, until the approval process is complete.*

November/December 2024 Once the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning approves the final funding recommendations, grant awards will be announced:

December 2024 –February 2025 MHT will provide grant management guidelines to assist successful applicants, schedule an Organizational Meeting, and distribute the Program Grant Manual (outlining all required steps of the process before funds may be drawn-down).

January – April 2025 Execution of Grant Agreements: Legal Documentation is submitted by grant applicant for review by MHT staff. Grant Agreements are executed. Grant agreements are submitted to the Board of Public Works for approval.

Summer 2025 Deed of Preservation Easement or Preservation Agreement for the property, *if required*, is recorded, or Preservation Agreement signed, completing the final step in the award process.

July 2025 Scope of work reviewed by Easement Committee or RFP process begins.

August-September 2025 Review and approve bidder.

October 2025 - December 2025 Construction work begins, approve payments as work progresses.

December 2026 Deadline for completion of project. If a time extension is needed, the grantee must obtain an extension of the grant from MHT before this date, or the grant will automatically expire.

Exhibit 2: Sample Timeline

The text below is a sample of the kind of project timeline you might enter into the appropriate box in the "Project Description" tab on the application. Please note that while the AAHPP-funded work should be complete by December 2026, your timeline may include project benchmarks before and after those dates, particularly if you have a complex, multi-phase project. Please show dates outside of the two-year project period or outside the scope of this grant request in [brackets] for clarity. Not all the work steps shown in this example will apply to your project.

- [October 1, 2024: scheduled date for settlement on purchase of the Smith County Rosenwald School]
- [October - December 2024: Phase One: Replace roof on the school using our own funds]
- December 2024: Notification from MHT regarding grant award
- [January 2025-February 2025: Review MHT-provided grant agreement and (if easement is required) provide necessary grant and easement documentation to MHT.]
- January 2025 - May 2025: Phase Two: Hire an architect to develop plans and specifications for the work to be funded from the potential AAHPP grant. The architectural services will be paid out of a grant from the Smith County Preservation Society. Submit architectural plans and specifications to MHT for review. Submit architectural plans and specifications to the County for review by the Historic Preservation Commission.
- [July 2025: Apply for AAHPP funding for next phase 3 of project.]
- July 2025 - October 2025: Conduct RFP for contractor to undertake the work. Submit plans and specifications for building permits.
- October 2025: Record easement and submit final documentation to MHT. Contractor begins work on Phase Two: Exterior Rehabilitation to be funded through this AAHPP grant.
- October 2025- February 2026: Phase Two construction is ongoing and AAHPP grant funds are being drawn down.
- March 2026: Phase Two construction is completed. Submit final report to MHT and close out the current grant.
- [March 2026 - December 2026: Continue into Phase Three: Interior Rehabilitation if funds are available.]

[December 2026: Target date for completion of rehabilitation project and grand opening of the Smith County Rosenwald School Museum.]

Exhibit 3: Ineligible Costs

Grant Funds **CANNOT** be used to pay for:

- Expenditures outside the grant period as defined in the grant agreement
- Expenditures outside the scope of the grant agreement
- Non-capital expenses such as research, studies, or predevelopment activities that are not part of a capital project
- Insurance
- Appraisals
- Equipment that is not inherent to the capital project
- Indoor or outdoor exhibits with an expected useful life of less than 15 years
- Meetings (venue rentals, food, etc.)
- Maintenance
- Landscaping that is not related to necessary work scope
- General office expenses
- Accounting or audit costs
- Property tax or personal property tax
- Employee salaries
- Project / grant management if it can be reasonably included in staff job duties
- Legal fees, including legal fees involved in conveying an easement to MHT
- Work to any area of a site or building, or a building element, that is used for religious purposes (i.e., interior of worship space, Sunday School classroom), unless the work is required to make repairs to the building structure
- Any work that is not properly bid (see separate information on procurement process for design and construction services). ***Contracts to be paid out of grant funds CANNOT be sole-sourced.***
- Some permit or approval fees
- Reimbursing volunteer time

Exhibit 4: Property Owner Consent Letter to Project and Possible Easement Template

Background Information, Instructions, and Sample Letter from Property Owner

- **Owner consent to the project and commitment to a preservation easement or preservation agreement (if applicable) is required for the project to be eligible for a grant. Failure to submit the required letter using the required language will result in your application being ineligible for funding.** Using the sample text provided on the following page, attach a letter indicating the willingness of the property owner(s) to support the project and to convey to MHT a preservation easement or a preservation agreement on the project property.
- If MHT already holds an easement on the property, you must still attach a letter confirming willingness to execute a modification to the existing deed of easement if one is necessary, as required by MHT.
- The Grant recipient will be required to provide to MHT certain legal documents per MHT's request. The costs incurred by the Grant recipient in providing these documents are typically not eligible for reimbursement out of grant funds. The required documents may include a boundary survey, metes and bounds description, and Title Insurance or Certificate of Title acceptable to MHT, certifying the owner's title to the easement real property. In addition, an update of the title work will be due after the recordation of the Deed of Preservation Easement but prior to the disbursement of funds.
- **The easement / agreement is executed between the owner of the property and MHT and must be completed before capital improvements begin and before any grant funds can be released.**
- A preservation easement is a binding legal document that is recorded in the local land records for a particular property. It covers not just the buildings on that property, but the entire area of land that is included within the easement boundaries (this could include parking areas, gardens, etc.). The easement generally covers both the interior and exterior of all buildings on the property. The easement protects historic buildings, structures, and associated archaeological resources, and it confers approval authority to MHT for any changes to the property.
- The easement or preservation agreement must be in form and substance acceptable to MHT and the extent of the interest to be encumbered by the easement must be acceptable to MHT.
- The easement imposes obligations upon the owner and a legal encumbrance/ lien upon the easement property. Once the easement is in place, the owner (and all subsequent owners, in perpetuity) must submit to MHT for review and approval all proposed changes that go beyond routine or general maintenance. The easement also requires that land and improvements covered by an easement be maintained in good condition.
- A preservation agreement carries the same terms and obligations as an easement but applies only to properties which are personal property, not real property (e.g., ships). Since the subject property is not real property, the preservation agreement cannot be recorded in land records, so the preservation agreement is a contract between MHT and the current property owner only.
- Approximately 800 historic properties in Maryland are protected by easements or preservation agreements held by the Trust. The staff of the Trust is available to owners of easement properties to offer technical preservation expertise in the maintenance and upkeep of these historic resources.
- More information about MHT's easements, including a sample easement template, can be found here: <https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/easement/easement-howto.aspx>

**Johnnytown Historical Society
P.O. Box 1
Johnnytown, MD 00000**

April 15, 2024

Taylor Means
Research & Preservation Specialist Lead
Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
c/o Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032

Dear Ms. Means,

As the owner(s) of the property located at **[insert property's physical address including street number/name, city, and zip code]**, for which an African American Heritage Preservation Program grant is being sought, I/we confirm my/our willingness to support the project and convey to the Maryland Historical Trust or other eligible entity a preservation easement or easement modification on the property or enter into a preservation agreement. I/we understand that my/our confirmation is a requirement of the grant application and that the preservation easement or preservation agreement imposes a financial obligation upon the property owner(s) and a legal encumbrance/lien upon the easement property.

[The letter must also identify all less-than-fee simple interests (mortgages, leases, mineral rights, reversionary interests, etc.) in the property. Your letter MUST include ONE of the two paragraphs below:]

I/we hereby confirm that there are no less-than-fee simple interests (mortgages, leases, mineral rights, reversionary interests, etc.) in the property.

OR

I/we hereby confirm the following less-than-fee simple interests in the property:

- Loan from Bank of Johnnytown, \$5,000
- Lease agreement with Johnnytown Toy Museum

[The letter must be signed by an authorized officer of the property owner organization; substitute their mailing information for the sample below.]

Sincerely,

Johnny Q. Johns

Exhibit 5: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Project Information Form

If your project will take place on land owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (regardless of your property management arrangement with DNR), you must obtain approval for your proposed project prior to submission of your application. The following information is required – see below for full instructions on completing this form, and how to submit it to the DNR. An [electronic version](#) of this form is available for download here.

Project Name:

Project Number:

Applicant Name:

Applicant Address:

Land Unit:

County:

Region:

Project Lead:

Project Type:

Customer Type:

Request Type:

Critical Area:

Master Plan:

Date Prepared:

Prepared By:

Contact Phone:

Contact E-Mail:

Review Due:

Project Description:

General Site Conditions:

Project Considerations:

Detailed Instructions for Submitting Projects for Internal Review

Internal Project Review - Project Information Form: Applicants should fill out the highlighted areas on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) application as indicated; DNR Project Information Form (PIF). The top part is information we need for the DNR electronic database. It allows us to generate reports and track our workload.

Project Description: This is the “who, what, where, when, why, and how” of the project. It should include information such as: How long the project will last? Where is the project located? How are you proposing to access the site, and how often? Who will be involved? Are there environmental impacts? Is the project temporary or permanent? Is a public right-of-way or construction easement needed? And most importantly, why is the project needed?

General Site Conditions: Describe the existing physical features of the site such as topography, soils, vegetation, drainage, etc. This will help our reviewers to get a “feel” for the site and surrounding area as well as locate it on our own mapping system in order to document land use changes. If there are known sensitive environmental areas (e.g., wetlands, floodplain, streams, creeks, rivers, etc.), please let us know on the form. Is the project site on (or eligible for) the National Register of Historic Places? Etc.

Project Considerations: Include anything else that a reviewer might need to know: Is there a special event planned and the project must be completed by a certain date? Is there a local official pushing for it or a “friends” group that is involved? Will an outside entity be doing the work (contractor), and if so, who is it? Is this project mandated (i.e., a consent order or other legal requirement to complete the project)?

Location Map or Vicinity Map: This should be a map of the general area or vicinity with some specific landmarks, such as major and minor roads and towns. It can be an ADC Map, a Google Map, a street map, with a circle on it, or map generated from a State GIS system such as MERLIN: <http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/MERLIN/>. We need to know how to get to the site from locations outside of the immediate property boundaries. Some reviewers may not be familiar with every DNR property, so please include a complete street address with zip code on the map or PIF. If there is no street address, provide a note and give the address of a nearby location.

Site Plan: This is a plan view drawing of the project showing the specific project site. It is very helpful if it is drawn to scale. It should match what is written in the PIF as far as dimensions, connections to other infrastructure, and impacts to the landscape as far as clearing, grading, etc. It should have a North arrow. It can include notes as needed to make things clear. If a researcher is setting up a net or trap structure, a drawing or photo of the equipment is helpful. If infrastructure work is planned, please include specifications.

The project review process generally takes 30 to 60 days. If you have questions regarding this process, contact Shane Johnston, Project Review Gatekeeper, at 410-260-8387 or by email at: Shane.Johnston@maryland.gov. Please submit all three documents to the appropriate manager of the

Land Unit where the project will occur. Please carbon copy Shane Johnston at Shane.Johnston@maryland.gov.