

Historic Preservation State Grant Fund - Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, local governments, and federal or state recognized Native American tribes.

What type of projects are funded?

Projects are limited to the stabilization and weatherization of historic buildings.

Can any old building receive preservation funds?

No. Buildings must be listed as a contributing resource in a National Register of Historic Places historic district or individually listed or eligible for listing in the National Register.

How does my organization apply?

Applications are available online at:

<https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/programs/grants/state-grants>

What is a qualified contractor?

A qualified contractor is one who can provide examples of past projects of similar scope and preservation approach.

Is a Covenant Agreement required?

Yes. Grant projects require a preservation Covenant Agreement from 5 to 10 years (depending on the amount) which is then recorded with the property deed.¹

Where can I learn more about the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation?

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/treatment-standards-rehabilitation.htm>

What is the timeline for the grant?

SCDAH staff review and update documents	July-August
Call for applications announced	September
Deadline for applications	December 31
Applications reviewed; recipients selected	January
Applicants notified of their status	February
Funding Agreement finalized	March
Grant Recipient (GR):	March-July

- Prepares plans and specifications and submits to the SCDAH for approval
- After approval of the plans and specs, draft the bid invitation and submit to the SCDAH for approval

¹ [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Publications/Complying-Architectural-Covenants-Jan2020.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Publications/Complying-Architectural-Covenants-Jan2020.pdf)

- Once approved, release the bid invitation to contractors

Site visit by SCDAH staff	TBD
Project work	July 1-following June 30
Quarterly reports due from GR	September 30, December 31, March 31
Final report	Due 30 days after work completion

How do I find out if the building is listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places?

There are several ways to find National Register properties in South Carolina.

1. If you only have an address, SC ArchSite, the state’s online cultural resources information system, provides a searchable map of National Register listed and eligible resources: <http://www.scarchsite.org/default.aspx>
2. If you know the name of the property or historic district, you can search for it in the SC Historic Properties Record, and use “Search National Register”: <http://schpr.sc.gov/>
3. You may also contact the National Register staff at the SCDAH to verify a property’s status.

Who is an Authorizing Official?

In general it is a person who leads the organization and has overall responsibility for financial management. For local governments, the mayor, chair of county council, city administrator/manager, county manager or supervisor. For nonprofit organizations and institutions, the chair of the board of directors or the director/executive director. For federal or state recognized tribes, the tribal chief.

How do I calculate the match required for the grant?

Take the total cost of the project, and multiply by .20 (20 percent). This is the required match amount. Subtract the match amount from the total project cost to calculate the grant amount to apply for. Remember that the maximum grant award is \$200,000.

Example:

Total Project Cost	\$226,100
Match amount (20%)	<u> .20</u>
	\$45,220
Grant amount	\$180,880

What sources of cash match are allowed?

The matching case share can come from donations, fundraising, local government sources, other state appropriations, federal grants, or grants from nonprofit organizations.

How do I find the population of an incorporated municipality from the 2020 census?

Use the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office census information page for incorporated places at

<https://rfa.sc.gov/data-research/population-demographics/census-state-data-center/population-data/population>

What are Project Plans?

Historic preservation project plans function as roadmaps for a particular phase or project. They often include documents such as Historic Structures Reports, measured architectural drawings of current conditions, and proposed changes.

What are Project Specifications?

The project specifications are detailed technical descriptions that define the materials, workmanship, quality standards, and performance requirements for various aspects of the project. They serve as a comprehensive guide for contractors to understand the project owner's expectations and requirements, ensuring that the final project meets the desired outcome.²

What if we do not have plans and specifications completed?

You may still apply for this grant, however preference will be given to those organizations that have specifications and plans completed primarily because of the requirement to complete the work in one fiscal year. Fortunately, there are federal grant funds specifically available for planning:

<https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/programs/grants/federal-grants>

Updated 09/13/2023

² <https://www.procore.com/library/bid-package#project-specifications>