

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 two categories: Planning Grants and Stabilization Grants. Planning Grants will assist applicants in the assessment of existing conditions and the development of “bid-ready” plans and specifications. Stabilization Grants will assist in the stabilization and weatherization of historic buildings that are “bid-ready” projects.

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. Stabilization 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/orgs/1739/secretary-standards-treatment-historic-properties.htm>

What is the timeline for the grant?

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|--|---------------|
| SHPO staff review and update documents | June |
| Call for applications announced | July |
| Deadline for applications | September 19 |
| Applications reviewed; recipients selected | October |
| Applicants notified of their status | by October 31 |
| Funding Agreement finalized | January |

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)

Grant Recipient: January-June (Planning)
January-December (Stabilization)

For Planning Grants

- Draft the bid invitation and submit to the SCDAH for approval.
- Once approved, release the bid invitation to contractors.

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Site visit by SHPO staff | TBD |
| Project Work | January-June 30 |
| Submit draft of plan documents to SHPO for Review | TBD |
| Status reports due from GR | February 28, April 18, and May 30 |
| Final plan documents to SHPO | Due 30 days after work completion |

For Stabilization Grants

- SHPO reviews and approves plans and specifications.
- Draft the bid invitation and submit to the SHPO for approval.
- Once approved, release the bid invitation to contractors.

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Site visit by SHPO staff | TBD |
| Project work | February 1-December 31 |
| Status reports due from GR | April 30, July 31, and October 31 |
| Covenant | November |
| 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 SHPO 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 cash share can come from donations, fundraising, local government sources, other state appropriations, federal grants, or grants from nonprofit organizations. Examples of cash match documentation are copy of bank statement, award letter from other funding source, or line item in city or county budget.

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>.

What are Project Plans?

Historic preservation project plans function as roadmaps for a particular phase or project. They often include documents such as assessments of existing conditions and 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?

If you do not have plans and specifications, you should apply for a Planning Grant.

Updated 07/03/2024

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