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2020 Certified Local Government Grant Instructions

INTRODUCTION

The Historic Preservation Fund grant program is structured to support local preservation efforts and to strengthen the Certified Local Government (CLG) program statewide. Only a federally designated Certified Local Government may apply for funding through this grant program. Funds available in FY20 for this grant program are anticipated to be \$92,000. Project limits and matching requirements are shown for each category below. **Applications are due on May 22, 2020.**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Historical Commission is to protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's Historic Places.

Priorities

The Alabama Historical Commission has identified priorities in its Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Proposals are solicited especially for: Survey and registration projects; training and education programs addressing significance of cultural resources; local preservation planning and/or design review guidelines; and development of local preservation plans. National Register projects converting surveys from CLG grants in the previous fiscal year into NR nominations are highest priority projects. Applications for work meeting the AHC priorities are more competitive projects in the selection process.

Applicant Information

The applicant for a Historic Preservation Fund grant must be the local government. The Chief Executive Officer must have the legal authority to accept a federal grant on behalf of the local government. The application must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant, such as the mayor or city manager.

Submittal Information

All applicants should submit a letter of intent to the SHPO via email by December 1 each year. The letter should describe the proposed project and the approximate amount of funds that will be requested in the application. The letter does not formally obligate an organization to apply, but is used by AHC staff to anticipate funding requirements and to assist applicants in preparing their applications.

All applications and supporting documentation may be submitted digitally. Applications and supporting documentation can also be mailed to the AHC main office.

EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

The Alabama Historical Commission's Grant Selection Committee will evaluate and select the Historic Preservation Fund grant applications based on the following criteria:

A. SURVEY & PLANNING PROJECTS EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

- I. Project or activity is appropriate in relation to previous and/or future preservation activities.

2. Project or activity is consistent with applicable preservation and/or professional standards and methodology.
3. Project or activity fills demonstrated preservation need.
4. Project or activity provides a public benefit.
5. Project or activity is of a type identified by AHC as having a high priority for preservation assistance. For the FY2020 grant cycle, projects affecting African American resources are prioritized.
6. Statewide distribution of projects in applicant pool.
7. Urgency of need/degree to which the (potential) historic resource/area is threatened.
8. Project or activity is an ongoing, recurring, or concluding project or activity that is identified by AHC as also beneficial to AHC programs/outreach activities.

B. PREDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Resource meets eligibility requirements.
2. Project concept is appropriate for resource.
3. Project design is consistent with applicable preservation and/or professional standards.
4. Project fills demonstrated preservation need.
5. Project provides a public benefit.
6. Resource is exceptionally significant or one of a few surviving examples of an important type.
7. Project or activity is of a type identified by AHC as having a high priority for preservation assistance. For the FY2020 grant cycle, projects affecting African American resources are prioritized.
8. Statewide distribution of projects in applicant pool.
9. Urgency of need/degree to which the historic resource is threatened.

C. LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TRAINING EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Local commissions with a high number of new members will receive priority.
2. Statewide distribution of projects in applicant pool – single applications from multiple communities for regional trainings are encouraged.
3. Eligible training topics are: (1) roles and responsibilities of local commission, (2) development and application of design guidelines, (3) significance and design review concerns of buildings, structures, objects, and historic and archaeological sites, (4) significance and review concerns of historic landscapes.

D. PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION PROJECTS EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Does the project increase the public knowledge of preservation principles, promote preservation as an ethic, and/or increase knowledge and awareness of the kinds of properties (both historic and archaeological) worthy of preservation and the various methods to preserve them?
2. Projects must relate specifically to historic preservation including **brochures, pamphlets, audiovisuals, temporary exhibits, publications, school programs, lectures, seminars, workshops and tours.**
3. Historic information used in project must be based on National Register nomination forms or other sources approved by AHC staff. Information related to rehabilitation techniques must be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
4. Costs of museum salaries, maintenance, and permanent collections are not eligible.
5. Priority is given to projects designed to teach some aspect of preservation or local history to school age children, the general public, and specific audience with a mission related to historic preservation. Projects that can be adapted to other areas of the state are strongly encouraged.

E. STAFFING PROJECTS EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Funds support professional services devoted to assisting the historic preservation commission and/or architectural review board in regulating one or more locally regulated historic districts.
2. We encourage CLGs in geographic proximity to submit an application to share staff support if meeting times and dates allow the arrangement.
3. Applicants must have no existing professional level staff assistance in regulating local district(s); implement design guidelines compatible with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation; and have a record of meeting public notice requirements for local preservation programs.
4. Applicants must demonstrate personnel has experience applying National Register standards and Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation to previous work with historic properties; and experience working with city boards, local ordinances and public meeting requirements. Individual or firm conducting work should have on its staff, or consult with, a person meeting History or Architectural History Professional

SPECIFIC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The following information provides guidance for completing specific sections of the Historic Preservation Fund grant application. Contact Taylor Stewart, CLG Coordinator, with additional application or project qualification questions at Taylor.Stewart@ahc.alabama.gov

1. APPLICANT

Complete the applicant information.

2. APPLICATION PREPARED BY

Complete the information for the person who prepared the form.

3. GRANT PROJECT MANAGER

The project manager is the person who 1) will have day-to-day responsibility for the project; 2) will be the liaison between the grant recipient organization and the AHC; 3) will ensure that all grant requirements are met; and 4) has authority to make decisions concerning project work or finances. If you plan to hire a consultant to carry out the project, the organization must still appoint a project manager to whom the consultant will report.

Identify the person who will handle financial documentation and reimbursement requests for the project. The financial manager must be a member or employee of the applicant organization.

The project manager and financial manager may be the same person.

4. PROJECT INFORMATION / TYPE

In the application, check the most appropriate project type based on the descriptions below.

Historic Resources Survey

Areas within CLG boundaries not previously surveyed or only partially surveyed, and for areas that require an update to an existing survey, based on the Alabama Historical Commission's evaluation of the existing survey.

National Register Nomination(s)

Nominations, multiple property nominations, or amendments to existing districts or multiple property areas where the nomination needs to be updated to comply with current standards. Applicants should contact AHC staff to discuss the National Register eligibility of the project before submitting an application.

Archaeological Survey

Data collection of a non-site specific nature, that leads to the addition of information that will enhance the body of archaeological data for the state or significant regions of the state.

Preservation Planning

Projects assimilate survey and National Register information for a community into a preservation plan. A preservation plan should include a description of local historic districts and significant features, process to administer local preservation ordinance, and design guidelines. A strong public participation component is essential for a successful planning project.

Information / Education

Projects or publications, including website development, brochures, audio/visual projects, workshops/conferences, training seminars, technical preservation materials, local preservation handbooks, heritage education or heritage tourism materials and other activities which are designed to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of historic preservation within Alabama; or projects which address a particular preservation problem or concern of a thematic nature, but which do not fall into one of the other categories.

Predevelopment

Projects produce rehabilitation plans, specifications, or structural reports on historic buildings that apply the principles of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Staffing / Training

Grants are for municipalities to hire, on a contractual basis, a staff person to assist with the day-to-day operations of the local historic preservation commission or for local preservation commissions to attend or bring in training opportunities for commissioners and staff.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the purpose of the project. Specify the completed project work product and include a summary of the activities and measures planned to accomplish the project. Include a project methodology, briefly stating how the project will be conducted, what standards or procedures will be followed (for example, using state survey forms and procedures, documenting to National Register standards, following growth strategies minimum standards), and referencing any previous survey work or National Register listings in the area. Also, state the role/proposed duties of the local historic preservation commission in the project, such as conducting the project, reviewing drafts, serving on a project task force, etc. Does the project relate to previous and/or future planned preservation projects or activities in the community? Describe the specific results of your project, including any pertinent information about the format (for example, forms, CDs, written reports, etc.), the number of copies, specific products to be produced, etc.

The following guidance is specific to many of the survey and planning grant project types (identified in #4). Depending on the project type, please provide the items requested below and include narrative in your description indicating how the processes and methodologies discussed here will be adhered during the proposed project. This will strengthen and clarify your application.

Historic Resources Survey Projects

A historic resources survey is often the first step a community takes in a series of preservation activities. A survey is an inventory of historic resources that includes buildings, structures, sites, and objects. AHC Survey Guidelines must be followed. It is important to remember that CLGs are required to maintain a system for survey and inventory of historic properties as part of their CLG requirements. If your city or county has not completed a recent update to your historic resources survey (within the past 15 years), what has prevented this from happening? Does your community have a plan for maintaining/updating survey data on a regular basis moving forward? How will the proposed survey project factor into/support this plan and the community's system of survey?

Surveys are completed within a pre-defined, contiguous geographic boundary informed by the goals of the survey. Applications must include a map with legible street names and an identified, clear cut survey area boundary that can be justified. This justification is typically based on neighborhood limits, or physical features – such as a river or major highway. If the application proposes a different approach to survey (such as a thematic survey), please contact the AHC prior to submission to discuss. Projects may be phased; however, funding for consecutive grant cycles is not guaranteed. For phased projects, the number of phases, boundaries, priorities, and overall timeframe of the project should be carefully planned and presented in the grant application.

*Historic Resources Survey project applications MUST include:

- Total estimated number of resources to be surveyed, and this number must be based on tax data.
- A map with survey area boundary clearly identified and legible street names

Archaeological Survey Projects—for further guidance contact the CLG Coordinator.

National Register Nomination Projects

CLGs are encouraged to apply for HPF funding to support the completion of a National Register of Historic Places nomination within their jurisdiction. Those applying for a grant to complete a National Register nomination for a proposed historic district must submit a copy of a current (dating to within five years) Historic Resources Survey of the area.

Preservation Planning Projects

If you receive funding for historic district design guidelines does your Mayor and Council, or Board of Commissioners intend to approve the guidelines? Have your Mayor and Council already designated locally the district that these design guidelines are intended to be used? If not, why? If designated, when was the district passed? If you have designated districts, but do not have design guidelines, what is your HPC presently utilizing to complete the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) review process? What are you encouraging COA applicants to use to aid them in the process? If this is an update to your historic district

design guidelines, why has this update not already taken place? Do you intend to publish your design guidelines on your city or county website?

Information/Education Projects

If information, such as printed, audio/visual, digital/website materials or workshops/conferences are to be produced during this project, how many copies will be produced? How will they be used? How widely distributed will the materials be? Will there be a registration fee for the workshop? For walking tours—what is the tour route based on? Is the information pulled from a National Register of Historic Places nomination or a Historic Resources Survey? Will the tour be made available online? If this project is successfully completed how do you see it increasing the strength of your Certified Local Government program? Will this project positively impact economic development in your city or county through historic preservation? If so, how? Do you intend to incorporate historic resource survey information into the project? Do you intend to include information from the National Register of Historic Places nominations (individual and/or districts), as appropriate?

Do you intend to include underrepresented historic resources as a part of this project (for example-- African American, women’s history, vernacular architecture, industrial, or mid-century modern)? Do you intend to reach out to other underrepresented groups as a way to include these resources? If so, how?

Predevelopment Projects

Predevelopment projects include architectural plans, feasibility studies, historic structure reports, and specifications.

Staffing or Training Projects

Has there ever been a full-time CLG staff person before? How many hours per week would the staff be working? What are the staff member’s qualifications?

If applying for a training grant, what events do commissioners plan to attend? How many commissioners do you anticipate attending each event? Do you plan to bring any training to the HPC? If so, which trainings? Is this application for a single municipality or multiple municipalities to bring a training to the region?

Is the property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places? Will the project be completed according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties?

6. PROJECT NEED

Briefly describe why CLG funds should be allocated for this project.

7. PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project schedule should be carefully planned so that all project work can be completed by **September 30, 2021**. The Alabama Historical Commission will have the option to reassign the grant funds to another grantee if the project does not meet these deadlines. Consultants should be hired and the first phase of the project should be underway as soon as the grant agreement is signed.

Example:

Interim Performance Progress Reports and Estimated Payment for each Completed Step	Estimated Payment
7/30/20- 9/30/20 Requests for proposals to survey area indicated on attached map according to AHC standards. Allow Fayette Historic Preservation Commission, AHC and city staff opportunity to evaluate proposals and comment on proposals. City will enter into contract with consultant. Consultant to collect existing information on properties and schedule consultation with Fayette Historic Preservation Commission staff and Fayette Historic Preservation Commission and the Alabama Historical Commission staff.	\$ 1,000.00

10/1/20-12/30/20	Begin photographing survey areas and preparing survey forms and map. Develop historical background and architectural descriptions for survey report. Consult with AHC on maps used. Continue survey field work. Review of survey documentation by Fayette Historic Preservation Commission and staff and the Alabama Historical Commission.	5,000.00
1/1/21-5/15/21	Final consultation with the Alabama Historical Commission on final draft survey report, forms, maps and other supporting materials. Final payment pending approval from AHC survey coordinator.	2,000.00
TOTAL GRANT SHARE PAYMENT		\$ 8,000.00

8. PROJECT FUNDING AND SUPPORT

Public participation should be an integral part of any CLG grant project. Explain how the public will be involved in the project, how the public will be informed of the project, and/or how the public information materials produced with the grant will be distributed. Describe the preservation commission's role in the project. Explain whether the project could be successfully completed with a partial award and explain if it could be completed without grant funding. If you wish to demonstrate local support for the project through letters, explain and attach the letters to the application rather than mailing them separately. Evidence of support is **required** from the historic preservation commission and is encouraged from other sources.

9. GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED

Provide the total project cost, the grant amount requested, and the minimum required matching share. Matching share must be a minimum of 40% of the total project cost. The grant funds must be matched by local, non-federal funds. The matching funds may consist of cash, indirect costs, donated labor or donated materials. At least part of the match is encouraged to be cash, and the applicant is encouraged to provide as much cash match as possible. Please document the source of match in Question 10, Project Budget.

NOTE: HPF grant funds are reimbursable grants. The grant recipient will need a cash commitment strong enough to keep the project running. Invoices for reimbursement may be submitted as often as monthly and can be paid upon approval of project work completed.

10. PROJECT BUDGET

Indicate the project type as in Item #4. Use the budget categories listed here as described in the application. If other cost categories are necessary, list them under "other," and identify them.

Budget Justification

Each cost item must clearly show how the total charge for that item was determined.

Examples:

- Consultant fees for Historic Resources Survey of \$10,000 was budgeted at the average rate of \$50/resource with 200 resources in the defined survey area.
- Consultant fees for historic structures report based on the cost of XYZ's completed project that is similar in scope of product and size of historic resource.
- Staff will donate approximately 20 hours of labor at their hourly rate of \$32.00. Intended duties of staff include hosting meetings with consultant, reviewing draft reports, and managing and documenting grant activities.
- 5 historic preservation commission members will work approximated 10 hours each of research and documentation for the historic resources survey. At a rate of \$12/ hours, this will total to \$600 in donated labor.

Indirect Costs: Only universities and governments with federally approved indirect cost rates may claim indirect costs. The current approved rate must be specified and documented.

Program Income: A registration fee may be charged for grant-funded workshops, seminars or conferences. However, if a sales fee is charged for a grant-funded publication, grant funds will be subject to recapture; once the grant period expires, a fee may be charged.

11. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please provide any additional information that may be beneficial and pertinent to the review of the application.

12. ASSURANCES

It is the Applicant's responsibility to read and understand the Assurances section. By signing the application and initialing each Assurance, you are certifying that the organization accepts these regulations and will comply with them in carrying out the grant project. Applications with incomplete Assurances sections will not be considered.

Submit applications and any questions to:

Taylor.Stewart@ahc.alabama.gov

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Taylor Stewart, CLG Coordinator
468 S Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104