

CULTURAL PROPERTIES RESTORATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQs

1. What projects are eligible?

Eligible projects include interpretative planning, archaeological and architectural survey, National Register nominations, restoration, preservation, stabilization, and protection of cultural property. Note that eligible properties do not have to be listed in a historic register.

Examples of projects include:

Restoration – work to depict a cultural property as it appeared at a particular period of time; work to rehabilitate a property for modern use like brick-and-mortar projects or planning projects.

Preservation – work to stabilize a cultural property; planning documents to preserve a cultural property.

Stabilization – work to stabilize a cultural property like structural engineering, brick-and-mortar projects or planning projects.

Protection – work to protect a cultural property like brick-and-mortar projects or planning projects.

Interpretation – developing an interpretive plan of a cultural property; developing a public outreach program; completing a survey project; completing a nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places / National Historic Landmark program.

2. What is a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico?

A political subdivision is a local government created by the state. Political subdivisions include but are not limited to counties, cities, towns, villages, special districts like acequia commissions and land grant commissions, and universities.

3. Can I use this grant to fund improvements to private property?

No. This grant is available to political subdivisions of the State of New Mexico and state agencies. See above for a definition of political subdivisions.

The State Income Tax Credit for Cultural Properties may be used by owners of property listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties. [The State Income Tax Credit program](#) may be a great way to offset costs for improvements.

4. Is this a new grant program offered by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD)?

No. The Cultural Properties Restoration Fund was established in the mid-1990s. However, funding has not been available to support the program for many years. Recent legislation was established for the [Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund \(SB9\)](#) which supports funding for the [Cultural Properties Restoration Fund \(CPRF\)](#).

5. How is funding distributed for this grant? What is the difference between a lump sum grant and a reimbursable grant?

The funding for this grant is a lump sum, upfront grant and comes from state funding. Most HPD-sponsored grants are federally funded and managed under different procurement rules, requiring that the grantee spend its own funding and provide documentation for reimbursement later. HPD is able to utilize different procurement processes for these funds allowing for distribution upfront.

6. What is a cultural property?

A cultural property is defined as a structure, place, site or object having historic, archaeological, scientific, architectural or other cultural significance. For the purposes of the CPRF Grant Program, a cultural property must either be listed in, or eligible for listing in, the State Register of Cultural Properties or the National Register of Historic Places.

7. What happens if the project is cancelled? What happens if the project isn't completed during the grant period?

The grantee and the Historic Preservation Division will complete a Joint Powers Agreement outlining the requirements of the grant. If the grantee does not meet the outlined provisions, the grantee may be required to return a portion or all of the funding.

8. Can administrative costs be included in the grant project budget?

Yes. However, administrative costs may not exceed 25% of the project budget.

9. Why does the grant contract require a preservation agreement?

A preservation agreement is required to ensure that applicants continue to care for cultural properties which receive funding. Most historic preservation grants that include work on a cultural property require some type of preservation agreement. The agreement requires the grant recipient to preserve the subject property for a period of time related to the amount of funding received. See preservation agreement for a blank agreement to get a sense of what the agreement states. For an example of a preservation agreement see the grants manual.

10. What is a joint powers agreement?

The joint powers agreement or JPA is a formal, legal contract between two public agencies. The JPA will include a scope of work for the project, due dates, and review steps, if required. The JPA will also outline what happens if the grant recipient does not complete the work per the JPA and that repayment of all or part of the grant funds is required. For an example of a joint powers agreement [see the grants manual](#).

11. How will grant applications be evaluated and selected?

The Historic Preservation Division and the Cultural Properties Review Committee will evaluate grant applications for grant management, plan development/site applicability, long-term preservation, preservation standards, special status of property (is the property listed?), damage, deterioration or threat, and availability of matching funds. See section F for more information on how grants are evaluated. Applications will be evaluated for the ability to complete the work and for the proposed timetable for the project.

12. What preservation standards are used when reviewing projects?

[The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#) will be considered when reviewing project scopes of work and establishing joint powers agreements.

13. Will there be an extension to the application period?

An extension to the application period is not anticipated. As of the issuance of these materials we are requesting that applications be submitted by March 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. MT.

14. Will this grant be available next year?

Yes. Legislation supporting this program indicates that funding may be available for five years.

15. Property ownership – does the political subdivision have to own the property?

Yes. The political subdivision/ state agency / applicant must be the owner/manager of the cultural property.

16. Can this funding be subgranted to a private entity?

No. This funding is for political subdivisions of the state/state agencies and cannot be subgranted to private property owners.

17. Will a State of New Mexico Purchase Order be required to start?

Yes. As part of the procurement process a PO will be required before starting the project. The PO will be issued by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Administrative Services Division.

18. Is there a form required to apply?

Yes. There is an application to complete which includes twelve parts. [Be sure to review the grants manual](#). The application parts may be found on the [CPRF GRANTS PROGRAM](#) website.