

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program- Appalachian Southwest Virginia Guidelines

Overview

The Commonwealth of Virginia has been awarded \$750,000 in grant funds for a second round of funding through the 2023 NPS Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program (PBHRGP). Of that \$675,374 is allocated to support the rehabilitation of three historic buildings (at about \$225,000 each) associated with heritage tourism and/or economic revitalization in the state's Southwestern region. The projects funded through this program will seek to build upon and be sustained by continued public efforts to expand heritage tourism, which, in turn, drives Southwest Virginia's economic revitalization. Public entities and nonprofit organizations based in Southwest Virginia that steward historic places in this 25-county region for the public good are eligible to apply for funds from the subgrant program.

Projects funded through the subgrant program are expected to be completed within a three-year timeframe, with the 2023 PBHRGP program set to close in December 2027.

The PBHRGP is funded through the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). All programs funded through the HPF must adhere to the [HPF Grants Manual](#).

All grant-funded projects must enter into a preservation agreement ([short-term covenant that places restrictions on the property and runs with property deed](#)) based on terms defined by the NPS.

Applicant Eligibility

Public and nonprofit owners of historic properties in the Appalachian Regional Commission identified localities in Southwest Virginia are eligible to apply to the subgrant program. For the purpose of this grant program "historic property" means those listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or be determined eligible for listing by DHR.

COUNTIES: Alleghany, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe

CITIES: Bristol, Buena Vista, Covington, Galax, Lexington, Martinsville, Norton, and Radford

Project Eligibility

Eligible subgrant projects will involve rehabilitation of buildings with a public function, including but not limited to, museums, theaters, and historic sites, that contribute, or will contribute to tourism and economic activity in their community. Each project should have a budget around \$225,000.

All material rehabilitation must be completed in accordance with the [Secretary of the Interior's \(SOI\) Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#).

Ineligible Project Types and Costs

Ineligible costs include but are not limited to:

- Construction of new buildings
- Work performed prior to grant award or costs for work already completed or funded through other federal programs
- Updates to non-historic facilities including cabinetry, appliances, bathroom and kitchen remodels, Wi-Fi, cable, etc.
- Acquisition of collections or historic sites
- Reconstructing historic properties (recreating all or a significant portion that no longer exists)
- Long-term maintenance or curatorial work beyond the grant period
- Moving or work on moved historic properties no longer eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places
- Cash reserves, endowments, revolving funds, or fund-raising costs
- Lobbying or advocacy activities
- Administrative costs may not exceed 25% of the total program budget
- Miscellaneous costs, contingencies, reserves, and overhead

The list above is not exhaustive funding requests for ineligible costs may be denied at DHR's discretion.

Application Process

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is implementing a new online grant management system called [WebGrants](#) for all its grant programs. [WebGrants](#) will enable DHR to more efficiently publish grant opportunities, administer projects, and process claims. You will need to register in WebGrants to apply for this grant opportunity. [To do so, click this link.](#)

The first step in the application process is the Preapplication in WebGrants. The form will help determine if the project meets minimum eligibility requirements. DHR grant staff will let you know if your project is eligible for this grant fund following the preapplication and invite you to complete the full grant application in WebGrants. See the grant manual for further details.

1. Preapplication: The required short preapplication requests basic information about the applicant, project location, and project type. Completion of the Preapplication allows DHR staff to better guide the applicant and save them time before completing the Full Application. This Preapplication will only be assessed for project and applicant eligibility (see "Project Eligibility and "Applicant Eligibility" above).
2. Full Application: Requests required additional documents, including a full project description, property documentation, project budget, and project timeline. This application will be reviewed and scored by a panel who will make award decisions.

Review Process

Grant award decisions will be made by DHR grant and technical staff following review of the Full Application. First all applications will be reassessed for continued eligibility (see “Project Eligibility and “Applicant Eligibility” above). Following that, a project scoring sheet reflecting the value of review criteria will be used to evaluate each Full Application (scoring sheet still in development, will be released with the Full Application). Due to the project timeline, DHR will prioritize projects that already have planning and/or engineering plans drafted with a firm budget and tangible results (subject to change following technical review, see below “Additional Requirements”).

Primary consideration will be given to:

- Historic significance of a resource
- Demonstrated impact the project will have on heritage tourism/ economic development in the region
- Project’s that demonstrate clear and feasible goals and outcomes

Secondary consideration will be given to:

- Applicant demonstrated financial need
- Applicant administrative capacity including the ability of the applicant to complete the project and maintain and manage the property, including potential future public use and engagement goals.
- Projects that have clear and demonstrated community involvement and/or support

Reporting Requirements

All subgrantees are required to submit quarterly reporting to update DHR on a project’s progress. DHR will provide the reporting template as well as schedule with the subaward agreement. Quarterly reports must be submitted throughout the entire length of time which a project is covered by grant funding.

All subgrantees are also required to submit a final report no more than 90 days following the completion of the grant-funded work.

Additional Requirements

All grant-funded projects must enter into a preservation agreement (short-term covenant that places restrictions on the property and runs with property deed) based on terms defined by the NPS.

All grant-funded projects will have to be technically reviewed for compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act Section and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. These technical reviews will be completed by the NPS and may require changes in scope if the project is found in noncompliance.

A publicly visible project sign is required to be posted during the duration of the grant period. DHR will provide the sign template and language (in draft form now) and the subgrantees will print and post the sign. The sign must be of reasonable and adequate construction to withstand weather exposure (if appropriate); be of a size that can be easily read from the public right-of-way; and be accessible to the public throughout the project term.