

DHR Historic African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund Quick Reference Guide

What is the AACGF?

The African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund (AACGF) provides funding to support the care, documentation, preservation, and stewardship of historic African American cemeteries and graves throughout Virginia.

The program is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants may include:

- Local governments
- Charitable and nonprofit organizations
- Property owners

Applicants must demonstrate ownership, custodial responsibility, or stewardship of an eligible cemetery.

What Cemeteries Qualify?

To be eligible for AACGF funding, a cemetery must:

- Have been established on or before January 1, 1948, for the interment of African Americans;
- Meet AACGF eligible grave requirements; and
- Be documented and recorded in the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS).

What is the First Step?

Documentation and Recordation

Before funding eligibility can be determined, cemeteries should be properly documented and recorded. Contact DHR if you are unsure whether a cemetery has been recorded.

Documentation helps:

- Establish cemetery eligibility
- Verify eligible graves

What Funding Opportunities Are Available?

Funding Opportunity	Purpose
Basic Maintenance Grant (BMG)	Supports routine and recurring cemetery maintenance activities.
Extraordinary Block Grant (EBG)	Supports larger preservation, documentation, planning, and rehabilitation projects.

Note: First-time applicants must first receive a Basic Maintenance Grant prior to becoming eligible for an Extraordinary Block Grant.

Funding Cycle and Application Deadline

Funding Cycle: July 1 – June 30

Application Deadline: May 30

Review Process: first-come, first-served

Funding Availability: subject to available appropriations

Applications may be submitted throughout the funding cycle; however, completed applications and all required supporting documentation must be received by May 30 to be considered for funding during the current fiscal year.

How is Funding Calculated?

Basic Maintenance Grant

Funding is awarded at **\$5 per eligible grave**

Eligible graves are determined in accordance with AACGF eligibility requirements and documentation standards.

What Can Funding Be Used For?

Examples include:

- Vegetation management
- Marker and monument care
- In-kind fence and wall repairs
- Preservation planning
- Approved Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey, Preservation Maintenance Planning and Wayfinding and Interpretive signage

See sections 7-8 of the AACGF Program Manual and Grant Guidelines for complete eligibility guidance.

What Will I Need to Apply?

All applicants should expect to provide:

- ✓ Completed application
- ✓ Ownership or custodial documentation
- ✓ Virginia W-9
- ✓ Organizational documentation (if applicable)
- ✓ Scope of Work and Cost Estimate (if applicable)

How Are Applications Reviewed?

Applications are reviewed:

- For eligibility and completeness;
- Based on available funding; and
- On a **first-come, first-served basis**.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit annual reporting documentation, including:

- Reconciliation of Expenses Form
- Certified Statement
- Supporting documentation

Extraordinary Block Grant projects must include photographic and/or written documentation of project results.

Need Assistance?

Contact the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for assistance with:

- Cemetery eligibility
- Recordation and documentation
- Eligible uses of funding
- Application requirements

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