



# Virginia 250 Preservation Fund

Julie Langan, Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

# Budget Language

“Out of the amounts in this item, \$20,000,000 the first year from the general fund is provided to establish a competitive grant program to support improvements at significant historic sites and history museums in Virginia in anticipation of the country’s Semiquincentennial. The department shall develop guidelines and establish procedures for awarding this funding, which shall include eligibility criteria for applicants, a minimum one-third match from grantees, and any other criteria the department determines reasonable to carry out the provisions of this paragraph. Of the amount authorized, the department is authorized to recover costs incurred in administering this program. Any balances for the purposes specified in this paragraph which are unexpended on June 30, 2025 shall not revert to the general fund but shall be carried forward and reappropriated.”

## ELIGIBLE GRANTEES

State or federally-recognized Indian tribes

Non-profit organizations registered as tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code (must provide proof of valid, current tax-exempt status under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code)

Virginia localities (§ 1-221.)

All applicants must be the owner of the project property or be able to submit a signed letter of support from the property owner and a copy of the recorded deed.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Rehabilitation and/or stabilization of a historic property undertaken in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*
- Accessibility improvements
- Infrastructure improvements to a historic property
- Site work (landscaping, parking improvements, lighting, wayfinding, interpretive signage)
- Reconstruction of a historic building in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Reconstruction*
- Fabrication and installation of museum exhibits

**Eligibility is not limited to properties related to the American Revolution.**

**Any historic site or history museum that meets the program requirements is eligible to apply.**

## INELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

Moving historic properties or work on moved historic properties that are no longer eligible for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Acquisition of collections, conservation of collections, or long-term maintenance or curatorial work.

Projects involving establishment or enhancement of cash reserves, endowments, revolving funds, fund-raising costs, lobbying or advocacy activities.

Projects already completed or fully funded through other state or federal programs.

Increase of staff capacity.

Environmental review and compliance.

Planning and design of exhibits.

Architectural survey projects including those to list individual historic resources or districts on the Virginia Landmarks Register.



## PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING

Projects that are “shovel ready” and can be completed by June 2026.

Projects involving improvements to historic landmarks, such as rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction, undertaken in compliance with the applicable *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards*.

Properties listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and/or the National Register of Historic Places, designated as a National Historic Landmark, or determined eligible for such listing. History museums in non-historic buildings are also eligible for funding, but priority will be given to those properties eligible for the VLR.

Projects that have a strong argument and metrics to support how the project will prepare a property for a measurable increase in visitation during the Semiquincentennial and how it will enhance the visitor experience.

Projects with a demonstrable public benefit.

Projects that will have a significant impact on their local and regional communities.

Projects that support buildings that are open to the public on a regular basis without an appointment.

Projects that can support an overmatch (match greater than one third).

## GRANT REQUIREMENTS

### PUBLIC BENEFIT

A condition of receiving grant funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia is for the grantee to provide a measurable public benefit.

A determination regarding the degree to which a project satisfies the public benefit requirement will be at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Historic Resources.

Examples of potential public benefits include:

- Perpetual Historic Preservation Easement
- Preservation Covenant
- Additional days open to the public and/or free admission days
- Enhanced visitor experience, such as improved accessibility/site interpretation

### MATCH

**A minimum one-third of the requested grant amount is required.**

Projects with a cash match will be prioritized, but in-kind match will also be accepted. In-kind match is not to include current staff time, costs associated with managing the grant or already completed work.

Other state funds may not be used as match, but federal and private grants are eligible.

## Timeline

July 16	Preapplication Opened
August 30	Preapplication Closes
September 16	Full application released
October 14	Full application deadline
Late 2024	Grant Awards Announced

<https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/grant-funding/virginia-250-preservation-grant-fund/>