

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION
PROGRAM PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA
FY2026

In accordance with the Project Selection Criteria, as provided for in COMAR 34.04.09.06, grant proposals will be reviewed using criteria outlined under the general headings below. The MCAAHC will evaluate each proposal on the merits of its public purpose, its proposed impact, project management, and local commitment, with careful attention to the Budget and the Applicant's demonstrated experience in managing grant funds.

Typically, a successful application has clearly demonstrated that the project will further understanding of the African American experience in Maryland, that it will make a significant contribution to support the missions of the MCAAHC and MHT, and that it will be managed carefully in a professional manner.

Point values are assigned for those general areas for a total possible point value of **100 points**; additional points assigned by MCAAHC and MHT for protective value, significance, and geographic distribution increase the total possible point value to **113 points**. The more points a project earns, the better the chances of receiving funding this Fiscal Year.

Point Values are as follows:

I. SIGNIFICANCE & NEED.....30 POINTS
("URGENCY & SIGNIFICANCE" heading of application)

A. PROPERTY SIGNIFICANCE & HISTORY: *(Point range: 0-20)* To what extent will the project identify and preserve buildings, sites, resources, or communities of historical/cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland?

0 = Significance is not sufficiently documented, or the resource is not significant to African American culture.

10 = Resource is a representative example of a common type of building, site, landscape, or resource significant to African American culture or heritage, but is not unique.

20 = Resource is a unique example of a building type, site, landscape, or resource that is of great significance to African American culture or heritage.

B. URGENCY: *(Point range: 0-10)* Is the resource imminently endangered (i.e., by development pressures, erosion, neglect), or is there a unique window of opportunity to complete the proposed project?

0 = Resource is at little risk of damage or loss if the project is not completed within a 1–2 years.

5 = Resource will require the proposed intervention within 3-4 years to avoid serious damage, deterioration, or lost opportunity.

10 = Resource is in danger of destruction without the proposed intervention, or the project is urgent to take advantage of a unique opportunity.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION25 POINTS

A. PROJECT SCOPE & PROTECTIVE VALUE: (*Point range: 0-10*) Does the proposed project contribute to or assure long-term preservation of the resource or African American culture and heritage? Does the project provide concrete action to protect the resource? Does the project address the most pressing needs and assure the continued viability of the resource? Will the project provide a complete product? (If one phase of a multi-year project, this refers to the completeness of this year's phase alone.) Will this be the final phase of a project that is nearing completion? Will the project design minimize long-term maintenance costs? ("*PROJECT DESIGN*" heading in application)

- 0 = Little protection or conservation of the resource or heritage will result from this project; the project scope doesn't address the most critical needs of the resource, or specific project scope/work items were not adequately articulated.
- 5 = The project will result in partial protection or temporary/stopgap protection of the resource; some, but not all, critical needs are addressed; or this project or phase will lay the groundwork for future work (such as studies, architectural drawings, or a condition survey).
- 10 = All anticipated needs will be addressed, and the project will be complete with this scope of work; the project will result in comprehensive physical conservation of the resource or heritage.

B. PROJECT GOALS: (*Point range: 0-4*) Are project goals and scope consistent with the mission and goals of the MCAAHC and MHT? Does the proposed work appear to conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*? ("*PROJECT DESIGN*" and "*PUBLIC BENEFIT & IMPACT*" headings of application)

- 0 = Specific project goals were not adequately articulated, or proposed work appears to violate the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.
- 2 = Specific project goals were partially consistent with MCAAHC/MHT goals, and if applicable, proposed work shows some consideration of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.
- 4 = Project goals and scope are consistent with MCAAHC/MHT goals, and if applicable, proposed work appears to conform to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.

C. PROJECT BUDGET: (*Point range: 0-4*) Is the overall Budget realistic for the proposed project? Are the costs reasonable and customary? Are all costs eligible? If the project is for a church, are expenditures on spaces used for religious activities or religious imagery excluded from the grant funding request? ("*BUDGET*" heading in application)

- 0 = Budget is unrealistic.
- 2 = Budget is questionable, unclear, incomplete, or appears exceptionally high or low, or budgeted items are not eligible expenses.
- 4 = Budget appears reasonable and well-developed; project directly addresses most serious needs of resource; all proposed work is eligible.

D. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY: (*Point range: 0-5*) Are there sufficient funds to complete the phase of work that will be funded by the grant? Is there demonstrative financial commitment to the project over at least the next 15 years? Have efforts been made to identify other sources of funding for this project?

- 0 = Requested funds are insufficient for the proposed phase and no additional

- funding is being sought.
- 2 = Requested funds may be insufficient for the proposed phase, but applicant is pursuing additional funding sources or has other project funds.
- 6 = Enough requested funds for the proposed phase and / or funds go above and beyond to provide contingencies and cover currently anticipated needs.

E. PROJECT SCHEDULE: (*Point range: 0-2*) Can the project begin when indicated, i.e., does the Applicant reflect an awareness of when grant funding will be available? Can the work be completed within 2 years? Has a realistic sequence with appropriate work steps been developed? Is the project phased, if appropriate? ("*PROJECT DESIGN*" heading in application)

- 0 = Time frame does not reflect an awareness of when grant funding will be available, the project schedule is unrealistic, or start date is uncertain.
- 2 = Time frame is realistic in terms of when grant funding will be available; start and end dates seem reasonable; scope can be accomplished in the proposed time frame; the project is ready to begin by the start date.

III. PROJECT MANAGEMENT.....15 POINTS (*"PROJECT MANAGEMENT" heading of application*)

A. ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY: (*Point range: 0-10*) Do the project sponsor and administrative personnel have a record of successfully administering grant monies, meeting project deadlines, and following established procedures? Does the project sponsor have the capability to maintain the project over time?

- 0 = Capabilities of project personnel were not adequately addressed, or Applicant lacks the capacity to maintain the project over time, or project personnel were not responsive to requirements of a previous MCAAHC/MHT grant.
- 5 = Project personnel appear generally capable of administering the project, or project personnel have been reasonably responsive to requirements of a previous MCAAHC/MHT grant.
- 10 = Capabilities of project personnel appear to be a very good fit for the project, or project personnel were positively responsive to all deadlines, procedures, and requirements of a previous MCAAHC/MHT grant, and Applicant shows the capability to maintain the project over time.

B. PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITY: (*Point range: 0-5*) Has the Applicant sought advice from personnel with the necessary training, education, and experience to carry out specific project goals (i.e., recognized in field, does high quality work, experience applicable to the subject)? (*See also "ATTACHMENTS" section of application for any reports, plans, specifications, or estimates.*)

- 0 = Applicant has not demonstrated having sought technical or professional advice on this project.
- 5 = Applicant has documented evidence that qualified technical and professional advice has been sought on this project from experienced personnel in the proposed type of work.

IV. PUBLIC BENEFIT, IMPACT, & LOCAL COMMITMENT.....30 POINTS

A. PUBLIC BENEFIT: (*Point range: 0-12*) What is the planned use of the project, and what are its benefits to the public? What level of public access or amenities will be provided? How will information about the project be made available to the public? Will the project be accessible to individuals with disabilities? ("**PUBLIC BENEFIT & IMPACT**" heading of application)

0 = Public benefit is not clearly defined.

5 = Public benefit is limited; public access is limited; access for individuals with disabilities is limited.

12 = Strong public benefit and generous public access; individuals with disabilities are accommodated.

B. EDUCATIONAL & DEMONSTRATION VALUE: (*Point range: 0-10*) How permanent and far-reaching is the educational component of the project? Does the project offer an interpretation of the site, heritage, or resource? What opportunities are available for participation or benefit to African Americans? Does the project have the potential to be a model or an innovator? ("**PUBLIC BENEFIT & IMPACT**" heading of application, see also "**PROJECT DESIGN**" heading of application for information on current and proposed use).

0 = Educational component is not addressed.

5 = Limited educational goals; short-term educational goals; or limited opportunities for participation.

10 = Project will utilize methods or techniques transferable for statewide, regional, or local application: the project has value as a "model" (i.e., it will produce a product unique for quality and innovation).

C. LOCAL COMMITMENT: (*Point range: 0-4*) Is the project supported by Legislative, County, and local government representatives? ("**SUPPORT**" heading of application).

0 = No letters of support were provided.

1 = Two letters of support provided.

4 = Two letters of support provided along with additional support.

D. LEVERAGE: (*Point range: 0-4*) Will the project stimulate or prompt other preservation projects or programs throughout the community and/or professional preservation support? ("**PUBLIC BENEFIT & IMPACT**" heading of application)

0 = There is no evidence of the ability to stimulate preservation projects related to African American heritage and culture.

1 = Project may indirectly stimulate the development of other preservation projects or programs related to African American heritage and culture.

4 = Project will directly stimulate the development of other preservation projects or programs related to African American heritage and culture.

V. SPECIAL INITIATIVES.....11 POINTS

A. CRITICAL AREA ESTABLISHED BY MCAAHC (8 points maximum)

The AAHPP grant endeavors to award projects that represent sites of significance to the African American experience throughout the entire state of Maryland. Accordingly, the definition of CRITICAL AREA specifically refers to Maryland jurisdictions that have not received a grant award or have received very few awards in comparison to other Maryland territories.

1) SELDOM SELECTED TERRITORY (5 points maximum)

Additional points are granted to applications for qualified projects located in Maryland jurisdictions that are under-represented in the awarding of grants. Please see the Geographic Distribution Information for score by Jurisdiction.

2) UNIQUE AND/OR NON-TRADITIONAL PROJECT (3 points maximum)

These points are awarded to applications for qualified projects that have been rarely funded by the AAHPP. Examples of such projects that have been funded: a historic bowling alley in the basement of a church, a memorial monument acknowledging an African American township destroyed to build a state university.

B. ADDRESSES CURRENT ASALH THEME (3 points maximum)

Will the project contribute to an understanding of the selected theme for this round? The theme for this round is [African Americans and Labor](#).

0 = Not addressed.

1 = Indirectly addressed.

2 -3 = Project addresses the theme effectively.

VI. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA EVALUATED BY MHT.....2 POINTS

Reviewer is *not* to complete this section.

A. HISTORICAL DESIGNATION STATUS: (1 point maximum)

If resource is listed on the National Register ~or~ resource is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

B. PROJECT SCOPE & PROTECTIVE VALUE: (1 point maximum)

If project offers a unique protective value.

VII. REVIEWER DECISION (Yes or No and Comments)

IS THIS PROJECT SCALABLE? (I.E., PROJECT SCOPE COULD BE CUT BACK WITHOUT IMPACTING OVERALL GOALS?) This question is helpful in identifying projects that could potentially be partially funded. For example, does a project include replacement of a failing roof and construction of a new pavilion- can the roof replacement be funded but not the pavilion?

SHOULD THIS PROJECT BE FUNDED? Based upon the review of the application and the total score, does the reviewer believe this application should be awarded funding?

REVIEWER COMMENTS Use this section to provide any feedback to give the applicant, specifically strengths and areas for improvement. This section must be answered if you answered NO to the previous question.