

Welcome!

FY2026 African American Heritage Preservation Program

Q&A Session

<https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants-AAHPP.aspx>



Program Basics

- Grants fund construction-related projects
- Properties contributing to Maryland's African American history and culture
- Maximum grant = \$250,000
- \$5,000,000 available this year
- Deadline of June 30th, 2025 at 11:59 pm
- Helpful Links:

[FY26 AAHPP General Overview Webinar on MHT's YouTube Channel](#)

[FY26 AAHPP General Overview Webinar Slides](#)



St. James ME Church, Oriole



Getting Started

<https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants-AAHPP.aspx>

Quick Links

[Guidelines and Resources](#)
[Current Funding Opportunities](#)
[AAHPP Application "Quick Start" Guide](#)

Resources

[Historic African American Cemeteries Report, 2022](#)

Training and Webinars

[MHT's YouTube Channel](#)
[FY 2022 Intro to Proposal Writing Slides](#)

Apply

To begin a new application for the FY 2026 African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant, or to access a FY 2026 application already in progress, please use one of the links below.

**My Grant Account – FY 26
Application – Individual**

**My Grant Account – FY 26
Application –
Organization**

To access an African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant application submitted for FY 2025 and earlier, or for active African American Heritage Preservation Program awards, please use the link below.

**My Grant Account –
Pre-FY 26 Applications
and Awards**

AAHPP Call for Reviewers

Do you have a passion for preserving African American historical sites in Maryland? The Maryland

African American Heritage Preservation Program

The African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) provides grants to assist in the preservation of buildings, sites, or communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. The AAHPP is administered as a partnership between the Maryland Historical Trust and the **Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC)**. The program typically receives an annual appropriation of \$5,000,000 for grants per year. Applications for the AAHPP are typically available in early April and due July 1, with decisions made by December every year.



Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge in Sandy Spring, Montgomery County.

Eligible Applicants

The AAHPP provides capital grants to nonprofits (state and federal government entities may apply as nonprofits), local governments, businesses and individuals for eligible projects.

Eligible Projects

All projects must be related to African American history, culture, or heritage in Maryland. Applicants may apply for grants of up to \$250,000 for the following types of projects:

- Acquisition
- Rehabilitation / capital improvements
- New construction
- Predevelopment costs such as studies, surveys, plans and specifications, and architectural, engineering, or other special services directly related to pre-construction work for a capital project

Work, or a discrete phase of work, that is already underway or completed is not eligible for grant funding. A complete list of eligible and ineligible costs is available in the **Grant Guidelines**.

Projects are subject to MHT review and must comply with the **Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties** (26 CFR 68).

Eligible Properties

To be eligible for funding, either the property itself or the proposed use must have associations with African American heritage. Property use must also provide a strong public benefit to be competitive. In addition, special qualifying criteria are outlined below.

- Grants for religious properties can generally only fund structural or exterior work and cannot fund work on

FY 2026 Grant Round Opens March 30th, 2025!

The FY 2026 African American Heritage Preservation Program round opens on **March 30th, 2025**. Applications are due by **11:59 pm on June 30, 2025**. The grant program guidelines, application materials, application link, and further information and announcements can be found by selecting the "Guidelines and Resources" link under "Quick Links."

The FY 2026 African American Heritage Preservation Program application requires that you register as a new user and apply as either an individual or as an organization. To apply for the FY 2026 African American Heritage Preservation Program, please use the appropriate link (one of the green or blue buttons) on the Links and Resources list on the left sidebar.

Register Now for the African American Heritage Preservation Program Webinars and In-Person Workshops

The African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) General Overview webinars and workshops will help applicants learn about eligibility of their organizations, properties, and projects; documentation required for the application; selection criteria; easement requirements; and more. Come to a Q&A Session ready to ask detailed questions about your project, general questions about the program, or just listen in.

Before joining a Q&A Session it is recommended to have participated in a General Overview Webinar event or an In-Person Workshop event, but it is not required. It is highly recommended that you attend a General Overview Webinar, in-person workshop, or Q&A session as you will have the opportunity to ask questions and speak directly to MHT grants staff and discuss the specifics of your project.

Virtual Webinars:

Application Resources

<https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/funding/grants-AAHPP-resources.aspx>



[My Grant Account](#)

Resources

[Grants Programs](#)

[African American Heritage Preservation Program](#)

African American Heritage Preservation Program, Guidelines and Resources

For Current Grantees

- [Grants Manual](#)
- [Project Completion Report Template with Instructions](#)
- [Retrieving Applications and Reports from MHT](#)

For Grant Applicants

- [Grant Guidelines](#)
- [Sample Grant Application](#)
- [Sample Budget](#)
- [Property Owner Consent Template](#)
- [Photo Template](#)
- [ASALH Theme Information](#)
- [Creating a New Account in MHT's Online Grant Application Portal](#)
- [AAHPP Application "Quick Start" Guide](#)
- [DNR Project Information Form](#)
- [FY26 Scoring Rubric](#)

Policies and Regulations

- [Emergency Grants Policy](#)

Training and Webinars

- [MHT's YouTube Channel](#)
- [FY 2026 General Overview Slides](#)
- [FY 2022 Intro to Proposal Writing Slides](#)

Past Awardees

- [FY25 Awardees](#)
- [FY24 Awardees](#)
- [FY23 Awardees](#)
- [FY22 Awardees](#)
- [FY21 Awardees](#)
- [FY20 Awardees](#)

Application Approach

- Focus on the most heavily weighted sections of the application.
- Refer to the Grant Guidelines and Scoring Rubric when developing responses.
- Make the application easy for reviewers.

Pro Tip: Do not resubmit the exact same application you used in previous rounds!



Important Sections

- **Project Description**
- **Significance and Urgency**
- **Public Benefit, Impact & Local Commitment**



Button Farm Living History Center, Germantown



Project Description

- How will your project be completed? Be specific.
- Help the reviewer visualize the project.
- Only list construction-related tasks.
- Base your scope on estimates.
- Focus on the most critical issues.



Henry Hotel, Ocean City

Pro Tip: Don't forget to include pre-development costs like building conditions assessments, architectural drawings, and ground penetrating radar.



Significance

- Discuss your site and its connection to African American History and Culture in Maryland
- Why is your site unique or important?
- Has the significance of your site changed over time?
- Why is your site important today?



Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery, Thurmont

Pro tip: Include information and photos of events or displays that show how your site shares its story and serves the community.



Urgency

- Clearly explain the critical issues and their impacts.
- Why does your project need AAHPP funding this round?
- Is the project ready to move forward if funding is awarded?



St. Paul Church, Denton

Pro tip: If your requesting funds for new construction, make the case as to how the new building will meet an urgent community need.



Public Benefit



Upton Mansion, Baltimore City

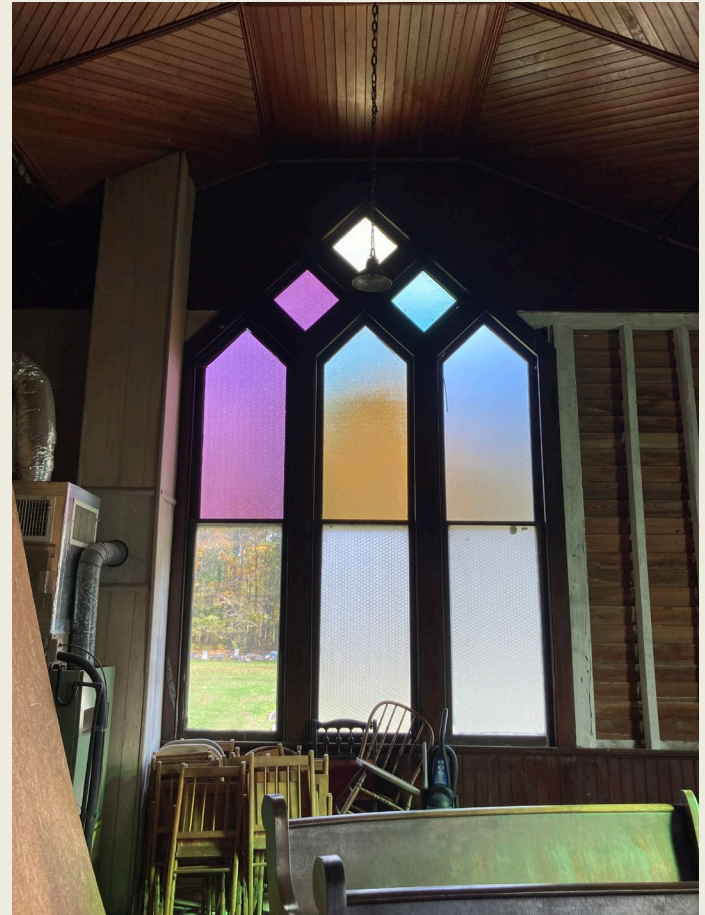
- Highlight existing programming.
- Focus on groups that are not directly associated with your site.
- Make the case for access and engagement.
- Discuss partnerships.
- Provide an educational component.

Pro tip: Include a letter of support from a partner or group that utilizes your site.



Documentation

- Photographs
- Organizational Documents
- Letters



Mt. Zion Memorial Church, Princess Anne



Photographs



George Rice House, Prince Frederick



Sotterly, Hollywood

- Provide clear photos.
- Include photos that show the overall context of the site.
- Clearly illustrate the location of the critical issue.
- Avoid unnecessary photos.
- At least 10 photos.

Pro-Tip: Provide clear and descriptive captions!



Organizational Documents and Letters

- IRS Determination Letter
- By Laws AND Articles of Incorporation
- SDAT showing owner of the property
- Certificate of Good Standing
- Property Owner Consent Letter
- Letters of Support

Pro-Tip: Make sure all letters are signed by the right person!

[illegible]

Project Management

- Organizational Capacity
- Resumes of Critical Team Members
- Experience with Grants and Project Management
- Professional Input from Consultants and Partners

Pro-Tip: Attach project-related documents from professionals to your application.



Scotland AME, Rockville



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