

Welcome!

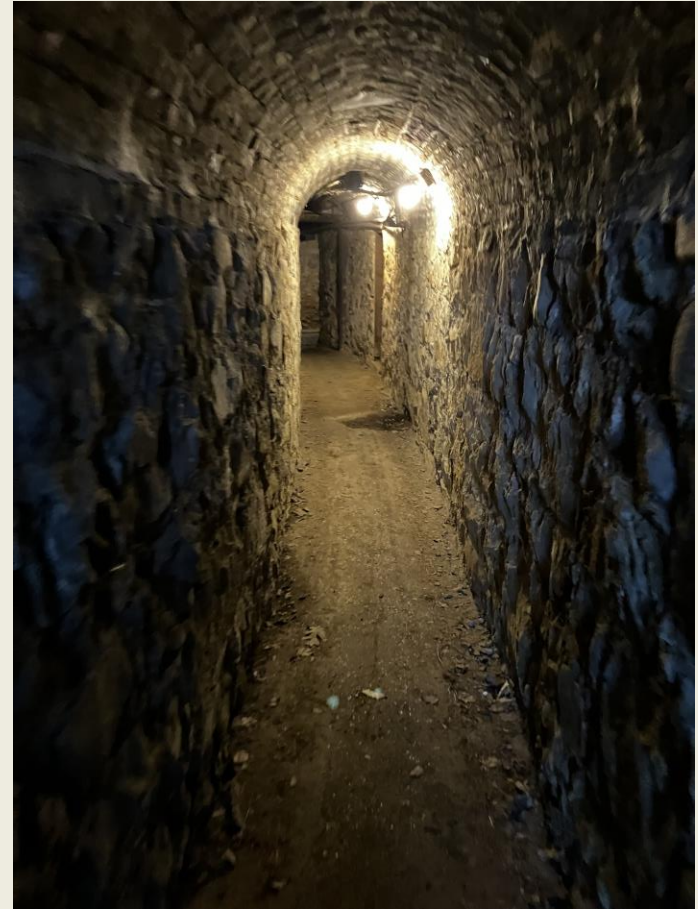
FY2026 African American Heritage Preservation Program

General Overview Webinar



Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Eligibility
- Getting Started
- Project Scope
- Budget Requirements
- Grant Administration
- Selection Process



Emmanuel Episcopal Church –Tunnels, Cumberland



Program Background



africanamerican.maryland.gov



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

mht.maryland.gov



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



St. James ME Church, Oriole



Application Deadline

You must submit your online
application online by
11:59 pm EST on
June 30th, 2025



Eligibility Overview



Eligible Applicants

- Non-profit organizations
- Local governments
- State and Federal agencies
- Business Entities
- Private Individuals



Button Farm Living History Center, Germantown



Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

- All Applicants (except individuals) must be registered and in good standing with SDAT <https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>.
- Applicants must provide organizational documents, including Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and proof of non-profit status from the IRS.



Eligible Properties

- Properties contributing to Maryland's African American history or culture
- Historical designation is NOT required



Henry Hotel, Ocean City



Property Owner Consent is REQUIRED!

Your application will be rejected unless:

- You submit a letter of property owner consent – even if the owner and the applicant are the same
 - Use the template on the program webpage
- MHT will confirm the property owner
 - Check SDAT's property database online



Eligible Activities



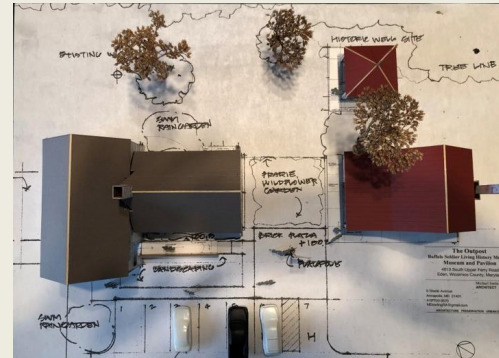
Acquisition



Rehabilitation



New Construction



Pre-development
(as part of a capital project)



Eligible Activities - Acquisition

- Acquisition must directly contribute to preservation and protection of the property
- Timeline and seller must be flexible
- Can be combined with rehabilitation funding request



Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery, Thurmont



Eligible Activities – Rehabilitation

- Focus on most important building features first,
- Protect Historic building elements,
- May require architectural plans or building conditions assessment.



St. Paul Church, Denton



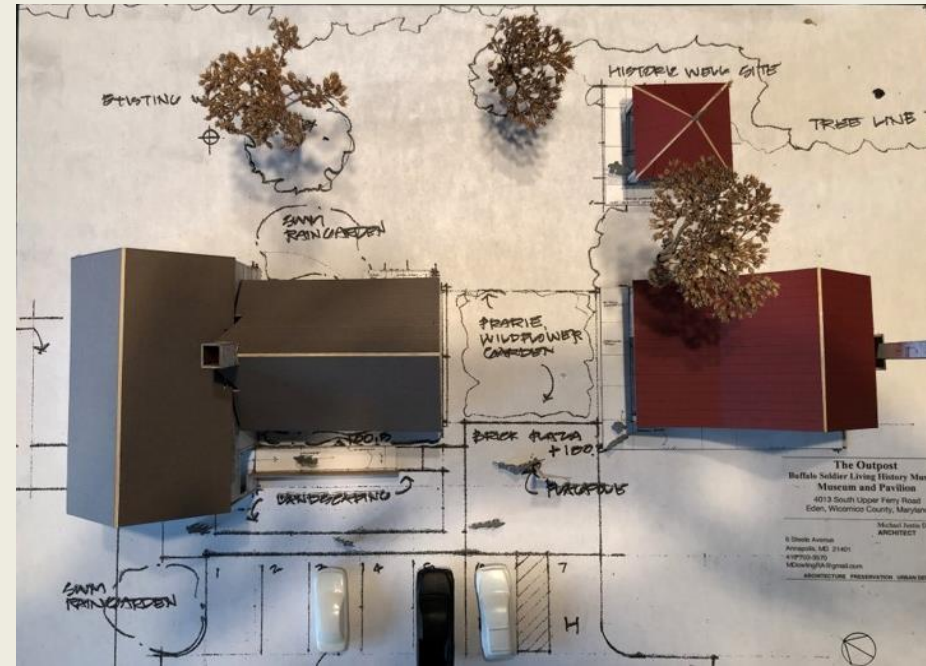
Eligible Activities – New Construction

- Includes new buildings, additions and outbuildings
- Can be combined with other requests
- Existing buildings should be prioritized



Eligible Activities – Pre-Development

- Includes construction documents, archeological investigations, historic structures reports, conditions assessments
- Must inform a capital project
- Must be necessary for construction to take place
- Can be combined with other requests



Buffalo Soldier Living History Site, Eden



Project Considerations



Upton Mansion, Baltimore City

- Most projects require an architect, engineer or archeologist - don't forget this in your budget!
- Focus on the most urgent projects.
- All work must last at least 15 years.
- Work that has already started is **not eligible**.



What are the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards*?

Your project must protect historic features.



McConchie One-Room School, La Plata



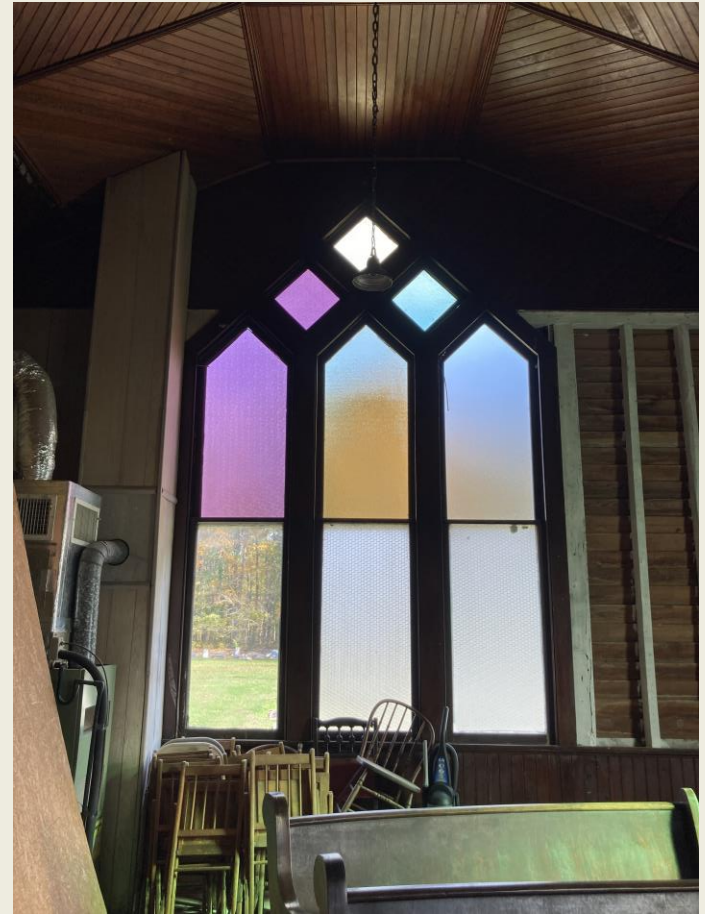
Ineligible Costs

- Landscaping
- Staff salaries
- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Research, master plans, feasibility studies
- Temporary exhibits
- Work that is not bid per MHT requirements



Religious Properties

- Religious sites can receive funds for exterior or structural work.
- Repairs to religious imagery are not eligible.
- Work on interior spaces that are not used for religious purposes may be eligible.



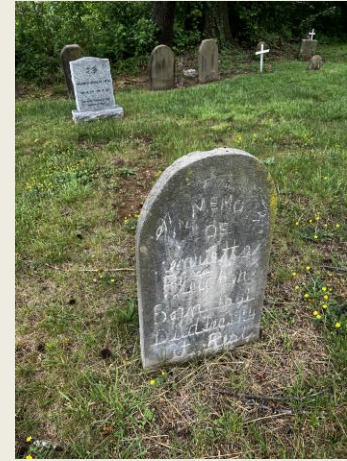
Mt. Zion Memorial Church, Princess Anne



Cemeteries

Cemetery Project Examples:

- Resetting and repair of grave markers;
- Identification of unmarked burials using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR);
- Repair or installation of paths, walls, or fences;
- New commemorative markers;
- Cemetery conservation plans.



Ridgley Methodist Church Cemetery , Landover

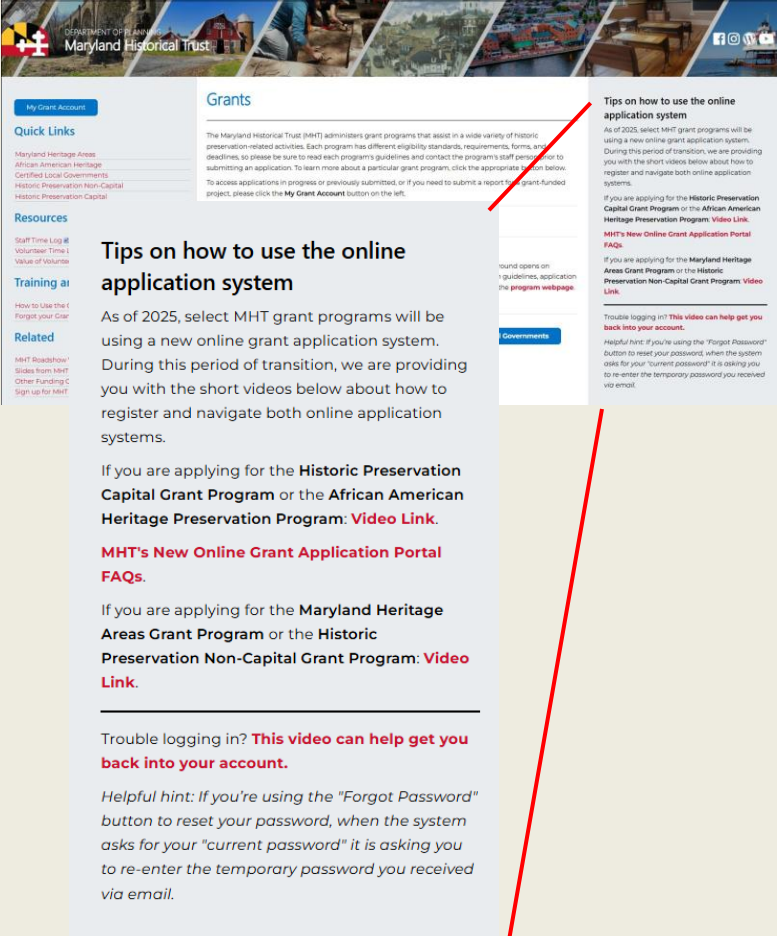


Getting Started



New for FY2026!

- All FY26 applicants **MUST** create new username and password in new online application system.
- Separate application links for Individuals and Organizations
- Previous applicants can download old applications using the old system.
- Online Application tips and troubleshooting information available on [MHT Grants Homepage](#).



The screenshot shows the 'Grants' page of the Maryland Historical Trust. A red arrow points to the 'Tips on how to use the online application system' section. The page includes a navigation menu with 'My Grants Account', 'Quick Links', 'Resources', 'Training and', and 'Related'. The 'Quick Links' section lists 'Maryland Heritage Areas', 'African American Heritage', 'Certified Local Governments', 'Historic Preservation Non-Capital', and 'Historic Preservation Capital'. The 'Resources' section lists 'Staff Time Log #', 'Volunteer Time 1', and 'Value of Volunteer'. The 'Training and' section lists 'How to Use the 1', 'Forgot your Grar', and 'Sign up for MHT'. The 'Related' section lists 'MHT Dashboard', 'Slides from MHT', 'Other Funding C', and 'Sign up for MHT'. The 'Tips on how to use the online application system' section contains the following text: 'As of 2025, select MHT grant programs will be using a new online grant application system. During this period of transition, we are providing you with the short videos below about how to register and navigate both online application systems. If you are applying for the **Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program** or the **African American Heritage Preservation Program**: [Video Link](#). **MHT's New Online Grant Application Portal FAQs**. If you are applying for the **Maryland Heritage Areas Grant Program** or the **Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program**: [Video Link](#). Trouble logging in? [This video can help get you back into your account](#). Helpful hint: If you're using the "Forgot Password" button to reset your password, when the system asks for your "current password" it is asking you to re-enter the temporary password you received via email.'



Where to Begin?



George Rice House, Prince Frederick



Sotterly, Hollywood

- Identify application items that may take a while to get back:
 - ✓ Letter of property owner consent
 - ✓ Signed letters of support
 - ✓ Estimates for budget
- Investigate necessary permits
- Keep the deadline in mind!



Develop Your Project

- What is the project scope?
- Project Urgency: What is the most urgent work that needs to be done?
- Are pre-development or pre-construction services required?
- Project Timeline: Should the project be broken into phases?
- Project Photos: Submit at least 10 clear and compelling photos into the photo template.



Boyds Negro School, Boyds



Project Description

- What construction will you do?
- Will your project description be clear to reviewers?
- Be clear about what the grant will pay for.
- Is all work eligible?



Greenbury Howard House, Brookeville




Project Description

Construction Project Description

The fellowship hall rehabilitation project began with a roof repair last year. The next phase of work will continue the exterior rehabilitation of the hall. The brick foundation piers will be repointed with appropriate mortar. The historic wood window frames and sashes will be repaired. The gutters and downspouts will be replaced, and the entry ramp will be upgraded to be ADA-compliant. The final phase will include interior work on the floors and bathrooms.

Grant Project Scope of Work

- architectural drawings for phase two
- repoint foundation piers
- repair historic wooden windows
- replace gutters and downspouts
- bring entrance ramp into ADA compliance



Your budget should match these items!



Developing Your Budget

- Submit estimates from architects or contractors.
- What additional funds and resources do you have?
- Can you manage the project, or will you hire an architect or general contractor?
- Include all items listed in Grant Project Scope of Work
- Requests should be in \$1,000 denominations
- Plan for price increases



Locust UMC, Columbia



Match & Other Project Funds



Chipman Center, Salisbury

- No match is required.
- Any other funds you are providing please list under “Other Project Funds”.
- Please make sure to include any additional state funds received in "Funds" category.



Budget Spreadsheet

SAMPLE Budget

AAHPP Grant Application

Item #	Work Item (Description)	AAHPP Grant Funds Requested	Other State Funds (State Bond Bill)	Other Project Funds (non-state only)	Total Project Funds
1	ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
2	MASONRY REPAIRS & REPOINTING (FOUNDATION)	\$6,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$15,000.00
3	CARPENTRY (WINDOW REPAIR)	\$8,000.00		\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00
4	ROOFING (DOWNSPOUTS & GUTTERS)	\$2,000.00		\$0.00	\$2,000.00
5	ADA COMPLIANCE (ENTRANCE RAMP)	\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
6					
7					
8					
9					
TOTALS		\$18,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$37,000.00



Project Schedule

- Will you be ready to start as soon as the grant paperwork is complete?
- What are the phases of your project?
- Have you included time for design, permits, and hiring?
- Can you finish within the 2-year grant period?
- Utilize the Sample Timeline in Exhibit 2 of the Grant Guidelines.



Project Urgency

- Why is your project urgent?
- Does your property have other urgent needs?
- Is there a time-limited opportunity?



Scotland AME, Potomac



African American Historical Significance

- How is your site tied to African American History and Culture in Maryland?
- How does your site and organization benefit the broader public?
- How does or will your site educate the public?
- How will your project impact your ability to provide a public benefit or share important history with the public?



Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery, Thurmont



Grant Administration



Grant Administration Schedule

June 30th, 2025: Applications due 11:59 pm EST

The following dates are approximate:

- **December 2025:** Grant awards announced
- **December 2025-March 2026:** Grant Agreements completed
- **January 2026- April 2026:** Initial Meeting with Project Monitor & Grantee
- **April 2026:** Begin MHT procurement for Architects or Contractor
- **December 2027:** Project completed



Easements

MHT will let grantees know if a preservation easement is required.



Parren Mitchell House, Baltimore City



Maynard-Burgess House, Annapolis



Ridgley Methodist Church, Landover



What is an easement?

- An easement is a legal contract between MHT and the property owner.
- The easement is recorded in the local land records.
- The easement usually protects buildings, structures, and associated archaeological resources on the property.



Frederick Douglass Summer Home, Highland Beach



Easement – What Are the Owner’s Responsibilities?

- The owner must get MHT approval before any work is started.
- The owner must maintain the property, keeping it in good condition.
- Insurance may be required.



Brown's UMC Multi Cultural Heritage Center,
Inc., Port Republic



Easements & Grants

- Property Owner Letter of Consent must state willingness to convey an easement.
- The easement must be conveyed before work begins or grant funds are released.
- Legal fees related to drafting the easement are NOT eligible for grant funding.
- For more information contact mht.easements@maryland.gov or visit <https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/easement/easement.aspx>.



What else should I know if I get a grant?

- ALL work must be approved by MHT BEFORE construction starts
- Grant funds can only pay for contractors hired through a competitive bidding process approved by MHT
 - NO sole-sourcing
- MHT can only pay the grantee, who will be responsible for paying contractors



Selection Criteria & Tips



Selection Criteria

- Significance & Need
- Project Design
- Project Management
- Public Benefit, Impact, & Local Commitment
- Special Initiatives
- Review [Rubric and Grant Guidelines](#)



Coulbourne and Jewett House, St. Michaels



Grant Selection Process

- June 30th @ 11:59 PM – Applications due!
- Grants staff review of application for eligibility and missing attachments.
- Grant Review Committee reviews and ranks applications
- MCAAHC & MHT Board review selected recommendations
- Secretary of Planning approves final award list
- Awardees are notified via email



Tips for a Successful Grant Application

- What are your goals for the project? How do they relate to the goals of MCAAHC and MHT?
- Show how your project/property will be sustained into the future
- Demonstrate local support for your project
- Review the Grant Guidelines & Scoring Rubric
- Clearly and concisely state all responses. Make it easy for reviewers!



Online Resources:

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



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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

FY 2026 Grant Round Opens March 30th, 2025!

The FY 2025 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

Guidelines and Resources:

https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml



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](#)
- [Creating a New Account in MHT's Online Grant Application Portal](#)
- [AAHPP Application "Quick Start" Guide](#)
- [DNR Project Information Form](#)

Policies and Regulations

- [Emergency Grants Policy](#)

Training and Webinars

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

Past Awardees

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



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