

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CULTURAL RESOURCES HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Cultural Resources Hazard Mitigation grant program provides funding in support of non-capital activities that will assist eligible applicants in preparing for and reducing impacts from natural hazards (e.g. flood, wind, earthquake, coastal erosion) to historical or cultural resources. Such resources include, but are not limited to: historic buildings, structures (e.g., lighthouses, roads, canals), objects (e.g., memorials, statues), or sites; museums, archives and other repositories of artifacts or historic records; archeological sites; traditional cultural properties, and cultural landscapes.

Applicants may request up to \$35,000; average awards are anticipated to range from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Applicants requesting more than \$35,000 will be evaluated, but may be reduced in scope or cost unless the project meets the needs of multiple jurisdictions (see “Combined Application” section below). No matching funds are required.

This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operation by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to Director, Equal Opportunity Program (<http://www.eeoc.gov/contact/>).

Eligible Applicants

- Local governments
- Nonprofit organizations

Eligible Activities

Non-capital projects that:

- Support the integration of historical and cultural resources into hazard mitigation plans (e.g. survey, risk assessment of resources in hazard areas);
- Develop plans for hazard mitigation of historical and cultural resources;
- Produce pre-construction planning or studies related to a capital project (e.g., architectural/engineering drawings) that will assist in hazard mitigation;
- Educate historic property owners about mitigation, natural hazards, the National Flood Insurance Program, and historic structures and floodplain regulation; and
- Develop regulatory tools that help reduce vulnerability to natural hazards while protecting the historic character of communities.

Other non-capital projects will be considered so long as they prepare for and/or reduce impacts from natural hazards on cultural resources. Examples of potential projects include, but are not limited to:

- Survey of historical and cultural resources in areas impacted by natural hazards (e.g., architectural surveys of historical resources; identification, documentation and evaluation of standing structures)

- Phase I or II archeological survey and evaluation of sites in areas impacted by natural hazards;
- Development of elevation design guidelines to protect historic properties threatened by flooding or sea-level rise; and
- “How-To” brochures for historic property owners to disseminate information about flooding risk and appropriate flood-proofing techniques, so long as those techniques will not preclude the structure’s eligibility for or continued listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Ineligible Activities

- Capital projects: *i.e.*, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or physical protection of sites or structures;
- Curation of objects or collections;
- Phase III archeological excavation;
- Research or planning projects that do not contribute to the protection of cultural resources from the effects of natural hazards;
- Plans that do not comply with state or local planning laws, and
- Any other activity disallowed by the Historic Preservation Fund and/or the State of Maryland’s agreement with the National Park Service.

Project Selection Criteria

A successful application clearly demonstrates that the project will make a significant contribution to the preservation and protection of cultural resources from the impact of natural hazards. Preference will be given to planning projects that demonstrate processes or create final products that can be used as models to assist other communities. The CRHMP grant application is designed to help the review committee evaluate the following criteria: **significance of the project or affected resources, urgency, project design, professional capability, project readiness, protective value, educational value, demonstration value, project impact, administrative capability, and geographic distribution.**

General Project Requirements

Projects must address a need demonstrated by Hurricane Sandy and its effects. This includes projects which will assist with planning for future disasters and related natural hazards (e.g., flooding, wind, etc.) in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

All CRHMP-funded activities must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation* as well as the *Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland* or the *Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland*. These documents are available on the MHT website at <http://www.mht.maryland.gov/survey.html>.

In addition, principal investigators undertaking CRHMP-funded projects must meet the applicable minimum requirements of the Secretary of the Interior’s *Professional Qualification Standards* as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR 61, published in the Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190, pages 44738-39 (available online at http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/Prof_Qual_83.htm).

Planning projects should comply with the requirements of 44 CFR 201 – Mitigation Planning. Mitigation studies and design guidelines should comply with the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Budget Requirements

If awarded, CRHMP funds are distributed as **REIMBURSEMENTS**. Reimbursements may be requested at any point during the project period and require appropriate financial documentation.

MDP staff and MHT board members may not receive remuneration from any grant funds.

Combined Applications

Local governments and nonprofit organizations can submit a combined application to meet the needs of all applicants. For example, several communities could collaborate to survey cultural resources vulnerable to flooding across a watershed or within a region. This allows local governments to apply in excess of the grant maximum; it also allows local governments with a stronger administrative capacity to assist other local governments.

Such an arrangement is permissible when the following conditions are met:

1. There must be demonstrable, justifiable link between the cultural resources;
2. One local government is designated as the grant applicant and administrator;
3. The local government grant administrator provides the following information in the grant application:
 - a. Names of all municipalities involved in the combined project and signatures of each municipality’s chief elected local official or designee; and
 - b. The amount of CRHMP funds requested to be used in the pool.

Grant Schedule

The Maryland Historical Trust will accept applications between May and September, 2015. Staff will evaluate and award projects as applications are submitted; grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. **Projects must be completed by September 30, 2016.**

April 2015	Official announcement of grant availability
May 1 - September 30, 2015	Full application due
Monthly	Evaluation of applications completed
	Award announcements
	Signed grant contract due

September 30, 2016

Project completed

Application Assistance

It is highly beneficial for applicants to contact MHT staff to discuss project proposals prior to submission of an application. For assistance or more information, please contact Jen Sparenberg, Hazard Mitigation Program Officer, at jen.sparenberg@maryland.gov or (410) 514-7641.