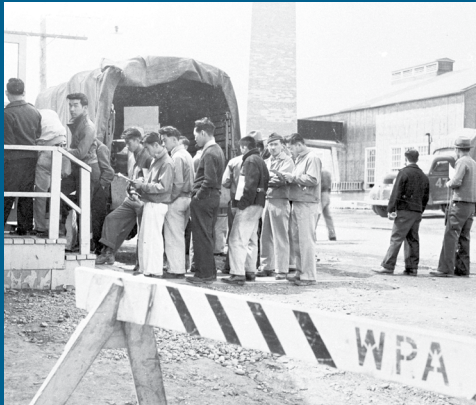


Public Law 117-328 Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Issue 2



Photos courtesy of Densho.

Thank you for your interest and feedback on the new Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education (JACE) grants. During the summer of 2023, the National Park Service conducted an outreach effort to share information on the legislation reauthorizing the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program and establishing the JACE grants—a new category of educational grants. As part of this effort, the National Park Service distributed an introductory newsletter, hosted six virtual meetings, and attended community events to engage with Japanese American communities, eligible organizations, and the general public. The National Park Service also held a public comment period from July 7, 2023 to September 15, 2023

to gather feedback on this important new educational grant opportunity.

Comments Received

Several organizations and individuals participated in the virtual meetings and submitted written comments to the National Park Service. All of the comments received have been reviewed and taken into consideration, along with the key provisions of the authorizing legislation, to develop the administrative guidelines and evaluation criteria for the JACE grants.

Your feedback provided valuable suggestions and insight on the importance of the JACE grants, which will fund large educational projects that will have a significant and lasting impact in educating the public on

the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

Next Steps

The National Park Service is currently finalizing the administrative guidelines and evaluation criteria for the JACE grants based on your comments and the requirements set forth in the grant program legislation. These will be shared with the public in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcement in Fall 2024. At that time, the NOFO and application materials will be made available on www.grants.gov and on the JACS grant program website.

For more information and updates on the JACE grants, please visit the NPS website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/JACE>.

What is a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)?

A *Notice of Funding Opportunity* (NOFO) is a document formally announcing the opportunity to apply for federal funding through a federal agency's financial assistance program. The NOFO provides information on the grant opportunity, eligibility and program requirements, evaluation criteria and weighting factors, and the application process and submission deadlines. The NOFO for the JACE grants will be published on www.grants.gov and shared on the JACS grant program website in Fall 2024.

Background Information

On December 29, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., signed Public Law 117-328, also known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. This law reauthorized the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program and also established a new category of grants—the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Education (JACE) grants. These educational grants will be awarded through a competitive process and will be administered through the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program.

JACE grants will provide federal funding for large, impactful projects that will educate the public on the historical importance of Japanese American incarceration during World War II, so that present and future generations may learn from Japanese American confinement and the commitment of the United States to equal justice under the law. Up to \$10 million may be awarded as JACE grants during the life of the program.

What We Asked and What We Heard

We appreciate your participation and the input you provided during the National Park Service’s community outreach effort. Your comments during the public scoping period, which helped us shape the evaluation criteria and administrative guidelines, reflected the following key themes:

Proposed Timeline for JACE Grants – Initially, the National Park Service proposed an accelerated timeline to develop the framework for the JACE grants and to make grant applications available in Spring 2024. Comments received during the public scoping period expressed concerns the proposed schedule would not allow sufficient time for applicants to develop meaningful project proposals or to collaborate with project partners.

In response to these concerns, the National Park Service extended the timeline and will make grant applications available in Fall 2024. This will provide applicants additional time to plan for potential grant projects and to foster collaboration. This revised schedule will also allow more time for the National Park Service to thoughtfully develop the foundation for the JACE grants.

Minimum & Maximum Grant Award Amounts – As required by the authorizing legislation, the minimum amount of federal funding an applicant can apply for is \$750,000. The authorizing legislation does not restrict the maximum amount of funding that could be awarded to one grant. Based on public comments received and following the requirements of the legislation, the

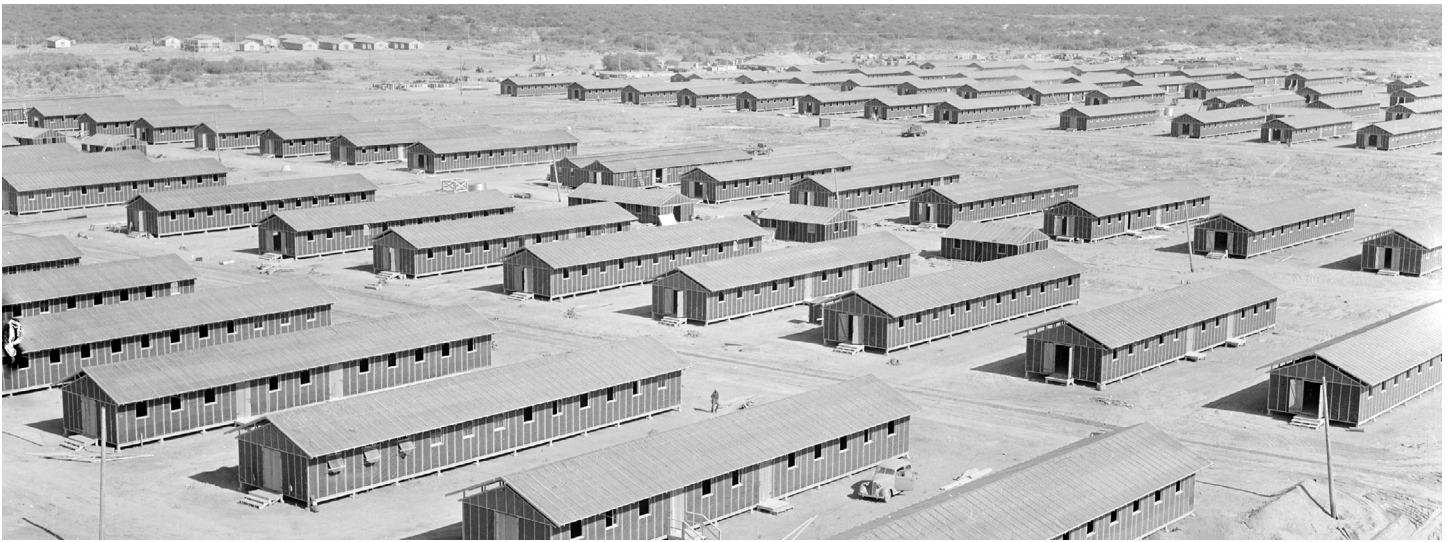
National Park Service will not place a cap on the amount of federal funds an applicant can apply for each grant cycle.

Non-Federal Match Requirements – A 2:1 non-Federal to Federal match is required for JACE grants. That is, to receive 2 dollars of Federal funds at least 1 dollar of non-Federal match is required. The non-Federal match must be made from non-Federal sources, which may include cash, in-kind contributions or services, materials, supplies, or equipment. As the minimum grant award is \$750,000, comments expressed concern that applicants may not have the organizational capacity to meet the required amount of non-Federal match and recommended the National Park Service waive a portion, if not all, of the non-Federal match for each project awarded. Per the authorizing legislation, the Secretary of the Interior has the discretion to waive all or part of the non-Federal match if: 1) no reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement; and 2) the probable benefit of the funded project outweighs the public interest in the matching requirement.

Following these legislative requirements, the National Park Service cannot provide a blanket waiver of the non-Federal match for all JACE grants as these factors will be different for each individual organization and each proposed project. Applicants can submit a written request for a waiver of the non-Federal match as part of their application package, which will be reviewed by the Secretary. Additional details on this process will be included in the NOFO.



Norman Y. Mineta (1931–2022).
Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.



Poston, Arizona. Photo courtesy of Densho.

Eligible Organizations – During the civic engagement process, participants asked how eligibility would be determined for JACE grant applicants. The National Park Service also received feedback on potential strategies to assess applicant eligibility. Applicants eligible to apply for JACE grants are defined in the authorizing legislation as Japanese American organizations that are private nonprofit organizations within the United States, “. . . established to promote the understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by illustrating the Japanese American experience throughout the history of the United States.” As part of the application process, applicants will be required to submit an organizational profile with information about their organization’s mission, location, staffing, current and past educational activities, and audiences they serve. This information will help the National Park Service determine an applicant’s eligibility. Additional details on this process will be included in the NOFO.

Importance of Collaboration – A number of comments shared concerns about the organizational capacity of applicants to effectively implement and manage large educational projects that would be funded at a minimum amount of \$750,000. Some comments also highlighted the unique opportunity for applicants to build capacity by working together collaboratively to carry out more impactful educational projects that may not be feasible for a single entity. Based on this feedback, the National Park Service strongly encourages collaboration and partnerships between different organizations in the development of project proposals. However, per federal financial assistance regulations, only one organization can be listed as the applicant on the grant proposal.

Administrative Guidelines

The NOFO will provide more guidance on the administrative guidelines and requirements when applying for a JACE grant. A few guidelines to consider when planning your JACE grant proposal include the following:

- 1) Depending on annual appropriations made by Congress, only one or two projects will be selected for funding each year. As such, an applicant can only submit one JACE application each fiscal year grant cycle.
- 2) Proposed projects should target a period of performance for project completion within 2-4 years.

Updated Timeline for the Norman Y. Mineta JACE Grants

In response to the comments received, and in order to implement the first grant opportunity for the JACE grants, the National Park Service will follow the updated timeline below:

- Spring 2024 – Finalize administrative guidelines and evaluation criteria for JACE grants.
- Summer 2024 – Complete internal review of the NOFO announcement and finalize.
- Fall 2024 – Announce the new JACE grant opportunity via press release; post NOFO and application materials on www.grants.gov and the JACS Grant Program website.
- Winter 2025 – Conduct NPS review of JACE grant proposals.
- Summer 2025 – Announce first round of JACE grant awards.

Contact Information

Please contact one of the National Park Service regional representatives below if you have questions.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wyoming

Contact: **Kara Miyagishima, Program Manager**

Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

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MIDWEST REGION

Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Contact: **Rachel Franklin-Weekley, Manager**

Midwest Region, Historic Preservation Partnerships

Phone: 402-661-1928

Email: rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov

PACIFIC WEST REGION

California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and other states not listed below

Contact: **Tom Leatherman, Superintendent**
Pearl Harbor National Memorial

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Photo courtesy of Densho.

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