



African American Civil Rights (AACR) – History



THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS

The goal of the African American Civil Rights grant program is to preserve and protect sites and stories associated with the struggle for equality from the transatlantic slave trade forward. To protect eligible properties, additional funding will be available for AACR Preservation Grants under a separate notice of funding opportunity for fiscal year 2024.

Who May Apply

- States and Territories
- Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Villages/Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations, as defined by 54 USC 300309, 54 USC 300313 and 54 USC 300314
- Local Governments, including Certified Local Governments (list provided at [go.nps.gov/clglist](https://www.nps.gov/clglist))
- Nonprofit organizations

What Is Funded

- Historic resource surveys compatible with state guidelines to discover and document properties with the goal of developing National Register of Historic Places nominations and amendments, Historic Contexts, Multiple Property Documentation Forms, and National Historic Landmarks nominations.
- Oral history projects that document significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites. Project should identify the people to be interviewed, why they were selected, where the oral history recordings and transcripts will be stored, and how the information will be publicly available.
- Website, mobile app, interactive digital media, audiovisual programming, and other electronic programming development to provide information to the public about significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites.
- Cemetery studies and archaeological surveys - ground penetrating radar (GPR), unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology from licensed provider, photogrammetry of headstones, and LIDAR – with no ground disturbance.
- Research projects resulting in:
 - Digitization of papers, photos and video records providing information on significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites that will be stored in a place available to the public. Project personnel must include a professional archivist or historian.
 - New or updated interpretation plans, interpretive media/panels, and printed materials for the public significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites. Project personnel must include a professional historian.
 - Interpretive panels and wayside exhibits for African American heritage trails with a focus on significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites. Project personnel must include a professional historian and exhibit designer.
 - Exhibits on significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites in a facility or location open to the public. Project personnel must include a professional historian and exhibit designer.
 - Documentary film providing information on significant civil rights events, persons, and associated sites available to the public. Project personnel must include a professional historian and videographer.

Consult with your state historic preservation office to discuss the strength of the civil rights associations of the project.

What Is Not Funded

- Historic site markers
- Attendance and/or presentations at conferences
- Travel unless application can show it is only method to retrieve significant information
- Theatrical productions and other fine art projects with a civil rights theme
- Cash reserves, endowments, revolving funds, or fund-raising costs
- Work performed prior to receipt of grant funding
- Lobbying or advocacy activities
- Costs for work already completed or funded through other federal programs
- Collections owned by the NPS

Grant Amounts

The minimum grant request is \$15,000 federal share. The maximum grant request is \$75,000 federal share. Matching funds are not required but may be considered as part of the evaluation process.

Selection Process

NPS personnel and qualified Federal employees will review all complete proposals using the criteria outlined below. Reviewers' evaluations are based solely on the material provided in the application. Additional materials not specifically required by the application, and materials sent separately from the application, will not be considered. A summary of the review panel comments may be provided to the applicant if requested after the grant process is complete. All funded grantees will undergo a risk assessment as part of the award process.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Project descriptions must address, and applications will be rated on, each of the criteria listed below. NPS will evaluate and consider only complete applications that separately address each of the four criteria. All criteria are rated equally. You are required to provide a detailed narrative of these elements using the project description and budget justification worksheets. These items along with other required application documents are only available through Grants.gov.

1. **Significance:** Describe the historic resource(s), site, event or person in the proposed project that played a role in the African American struggle for civil rights. Describe any historic resources affected by this project including significance and listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or designated at the State, Tribal, or local level.
2. **Need/Urgency/Threat:** The proposed project must demonstrate a clear need and expand knowledge and awareness about the struggle for African American civil rights. Describe the need, urgency, and threat the project addresses. How will the activities address any threats to materials, stories, property, sites, and/or resources? Why is this project the best approach to protecting the resources?
3. **Feasibility:** Describe all tasks and their results. Discuss your timeline and budget justification to show that costs are necessary, reasonable, and allowable. Demonstrate how you will successfully complete the project within the given time frame (2-3 years) and with the requested resources while meeting all federal requirements and guidelines. Briefly describe the professional qualifications of personnel you will utilize for the project. Note you must show a competitive selection process for any consultants selected to work on the grant project.
4. **Sustainability:** Describe the impacts of the project after completion, including how the information will be shared with the public. Describe the public-private partnerships and community engagement involved in the project. Explain how these partnerships will sustain and continue to support the resources after the grant project is complete. How will the exhibit, website, interpretive panels, oral history recordings, or other project result be protected, maintained, and accessed?

Process and Deadlines

Applications are anticipated to open in summer of 2024 and are due in fall of 2024. Congress has appropriated \$24 million for AACR Preservation, History, and AACRN grant programs for fiscal year 2024. All applications must be made through Grants.gov. No paper applications will be accepted. Registration in Grants.gov, SAM.gov, and other federal systems can take up to four weeks, so please start early. Extensions will not be granted due to incomplete registrations in these systems. To be notified when the grant opportunity opens, please visit Grants.gov and subscribe to a saved search for CFDA number 15.966. You can create a saved search on Grants.gov under the "Connect" menu "Manage Subscriptions."

Additional Information

Visit [go.nps.gov/civilrightsgrant](https://www.nps.gov/civilrightsgrant) for more information about this grant program.

For more information on our other programs, please visit [go.nps.gov/grants](https://www.nps.gov/grants).

For application assistance:
National Park Service
STLPG@nps.gov
202-354-2020

For Grants.gov assistance:
support@grants.gov
1-800-518-4726