



Semiquincentennial Grant Program



Viets' Tavern, in East Granby, Connecticut, part of Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine and the first state prison in North America
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Semiquincentennial Grant Program supports the preservation of a broad variety of cultural resources associated with the founding of America as a nation in commemoration of the country's Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) in 2026. For the purposes of this grant program, the "founding of the nation" is defined as the period ending December 31, 1800. This date corresponds to the election of 1800, as the peaceful transfer of power following the contested election between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson represents a hallmark of democracy and a pivotal moment in American history. The founding of the nation does not have a defined starting period.

Who May Apply

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

Eligible Resources

- Resources must be listed in, or be determined eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a National Historic Landmark either individually or as part of a district at the time of application.
- Buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects considered significant for their association with or commemoration of people, places, or events between the earliest known resources and December 31, 1800, may be considered as associated with the "founding of the nation."

What Is Funded

Pre-preservation Projects

- Pre-preservation projects may include the development of resource-specific architectural plans and specifications, historic structure reports, studies, and related surveys. Archaeological and architectural surveys that seek only to identify sites associated with this period are not eligible.
- Amendments or updates to the National Register nomination for the resource are eligible as grant supported activities if the document is out of date or does not adequately reflect all areas of significance.

Preservation Projects

- Preservation projects fund physical preservation of a historic site to include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Projects must comply with all applicable laws such as Section 106 and NEPA, and execute a preservation covenant/easement.

- The repair and rehabilitation of historic properties must be conducted according to the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards & Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.
- Amendments or updates to the National Register nomination for the resource are eligible as grant supported activities if the document is out of date or does not adequately reflect all areas of significance.

What Is Not Funded

- Construction of new buildings, reconstructing historic properties (recreating all or a significant portion that no longer exists), or acquisition of collections or historic sites
- Long-term maintenance or work outside the grant period, work performed prior to announcement of award, lobbying, or advocacy activities
- Moving or work on moved historic properties that are no longer eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places
- Cash reserves, endowments, revolving funds, fund-raising costs, miscellaneous costs, contingencies, reserves, overhead costs, or costs for work already completed or funded through other federal programs
- Costs to manage the grant may not exceed 25% of the total budget per statute
- Sites or collections owned or leased by the NPS, or in which the NPS holds a property interest

Grant Amount

- **Pre-preservation projects** – Minimum of \$15,000 and maximum \$75,000 federal share.
- **Preservation projects** – Minimum of \$75,000 and maximum \$750,000 federal share.
- 20% of preservation projects may go towards pre-preservation costs such as architectural or engineering services.
- 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. 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 association of the historic resource(s) in the proposed project to the founding of the nation and identify whether they are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or designated at the state, Tribal, or local level.
2. **Need/Urgency/Threat:** Describe the need, urgency, and threat the project addresses and how the activities are necessary and will mitigate that threat. Discuss how the project is the next logical step toward the resource’s preservation.
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 given resources while meeting all federal requirements and guidelines. Briefly describe who will be involved in carrying out the project and their qualifications, attach resumes/CVs as applicable.
4. **Sustainability:** Describe the impacts of the project after completion, including long lasting effects. Describe the public private partnerships and community engagement involved in the project and how these partnerships will sustain and continue to support the resources after the grant project is complete. For preservation projects, describe the plan for continued maintenance. If previously funded, please describe the progress made to date.

Process and Deadlines

Applications are anticipated to open in fall of 2024 and are due in winter of 2025. Congress has appropriated \$7 million for this program in 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/semiquin](https://www.nps.gov/semiquin) 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

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