Special Category Historic Preservation Grants
Formal Solicitation for Applications
June 1, 2026 – July 10, 2026
for Fiscal Year 2028

The Florida Department of State is soliciting applications for Special Category Grant-in-Aid assistance for historic preservation projects. Applications will be accepted **online** at dosgrants.com. The application submission period **will open June 1, 2026, and close at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern) on July 10, 2026**. Applications will only be accepted electronically and must be complete to be considered for evaluation.

SPECIAL CATEGORY GRANTS PROGRAM

The purpose of the Special Category Grants Program is to provide funding to assist major local, regional, and state-wide efforts to preserve significant historic structures and archaeological resources, to assist major archaeological excavations or research projects and to assist in the development and fabrication of major museum exhibits that will promote knowledge and appreciation of the history of Florida. The program does not fund operational support for museums or historic preservation organizations.

Project types include: Development; Archaeological Research; Museum Exhibit; and Acquisition. For questions about project types or the eligibility of a project or work item, please refer to the *Special Category Grant Guidelines* on FLHeritage.com/grants.

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION PRIORITIES

Though the Division of Historical Resources will accept applications for all eligible project types, this cycle's priorities are:

- Hurricane preparedness efforts
- Preservation and protection of Historic Cemeteries
- Projects that support the restoration of historic structures in Florida Main Street program areas and Certified Local Governments

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible Applicant Organizations are either a public entity or an active Florida nonprofit. For questions about eligibility, please refer to the *Special Category Grant Guidelines*.

AWARD AMOUNT AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Maximum award amount: $1,000,000
Match requirement: 50 percent, unless reduced as explained below, with a minimum cash match contribution of 25 percent.
Match reduction: A reduction of match to 25 percent is available for projects proposed to be located within rural counties or communities designated pursuant to Sections 288.0656 and 288.06561, *Florida Statutes*, as REDI-qualified at the time of application submission, as stipulated in the *Special Category Grant Guidelines*. State agencies, state colleges, or state universities are not eligible for a match reduction, regardless of project location.

APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS

An Applicant Organization may submit only one (1) Historic Preservation Special Category Grant Application under a single application deadline for a particular application cycle. State agencies, county or city governments, or universities may submit single applications from more than one division or department under a single application cycle provided that those divisions or departments are separate and distinct budgetary units, and provided that applications do not address the same facility, project, property, or site. For additional restrictions, please refer to the *Special Category Grant Guidelines*.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND PROJECT SELECTION

Eligible applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis by the Florida Historical Commission (FHC) in a public meeting. The FHC will review and score applications pursuant to criteria in the *Special Category Grant Guidelines*, and recommend to the Secretary of State those applications that should be forwarded to the 2027 Legislature for funding consideration in State Fiscal Year 2028.

The FHC's recommendation to the Secretary of State will not result in any immediate grant award. The award and level of funding for each Special Category project will be subject to specific legislative appropriation.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

For projects receiving funding from the 2027 Legislature, funds will become available after July 1, 2027, which is the beginning of the 2027-2028 State Fiscal Year. To receive grant funds, grantees will be required to sign a Grant Award Agreement containing specific administrative responsibilities. Any unexpended balance of grant funds will revert to the state at the end of the 24-month period, on June 30, 2029.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Grantees with Special Category grant projects involving acquisition or development activities will also be required to execute **Restrictive Covenants** that must be recorded with the property deed by the Clerk of Circuit Court in the county where the property is located prior to release of grant funds. These covenants require that, in exchange for state grant funds, the grantee will not undertake modifications to the property (other than routine repairs and maintenance) for a period of 15 years, or 20 years in the case of acquisition, without review and approval of plans and specifications by the Division.

For Special Category grant projects involving properties other than real property (e.g. aircraft, locomotive, or marine vessel) and Museum Exhibit projects, the grantee shall execute and notarize a **Preservation Agreement** prior to release of grant funds. The preservation agreement requires that the grantee and property owner shall follow the terms specified therein for ten (10) years for Development projects and five (5) years for Museum Exhibit projects.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding proposed projects or the online application form, please call the Historic Preservation Grants Program, Division of Historical Resources, at 800.847.7278 or 850.245.6333 or email at DHRgrants@dos.fl.gov.