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Subgrant Program Overview

Through the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), History Colorado (HC) administers the U.S. Department of Interior’s Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Program in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), an office of the U.S. Department of Interior. Under this program, NPS has specified that at least 10% of Colorado’s annual program funds must be subgranted to Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and no applicant is guaranteed funding.

Since 2000, Colorado’s 10% requirement has been augmented by the History Colorado State Historical Fund. The anticipated total amount available for FY 2020 grants is approximately $140,000. By extending a CLG subgrant to your project, HC assumes the responsibility for ensuring that public money will be spent appropriately and with the maximum effectiveness. HC is held accountable by NPS for compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

Eligibility

Only official Certified Local Governments in good standing are eligible to participate in this federally-funded grant program. To be in good standing, a CLG must meet the following requirements:

- Have an accurate Annual Report for the most recent fiscal year on file with History Colorado
- Have met previous state contract management obligations, if applicable
- Have completed a work plan to avoid decertification, if applicable

Grant Types

Two types of grants will be offered for Fiscal Year 2020: General and Scholarship. Scholarship grants are offered for specific training opportunities from a separate funding pool and have different requirements than General grants. The requirements for Scholarship grants are detailed in the Scholarship Application. General grants are offered for all other types of eligible projects and are subject to the rules outlined in this Manual. General grant awards are limited to $25,000 or less but CLGs may apply for more than one General grant during the application period.

Timeline

- Grant Application Available – September 2019
- Draft Applications Due – December 2, 2019
- Applications Due – January 15, 2020
- Award Notifications – March 1, 2020
  - Contracting and fund distribution may be delayed due to finalization of federal funding. Projects may commence as early as April or may be delayed until July. These dates are important because reimbursable work cannot be initiated until federal funding is available and a grant agreement is finalized by the CLG and HC.
- Projects Completed – July 31, 2021
Project Requirements

All projects must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Survey projects must also meet the standards detailed in the Colorado Cultural Resources Survey Manual. Consultants who will perform the scope of work for the project must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards for the discipline relevant to the project. All aspects of the project must conform to the federal OMB’s Uniform Guidance regarding allowable costs as well as other administrative requirements, federal regulations, and the Historic Preservation Fund Grants Manual identified in the CLG grant agreement.

Eligible Project Types

History Colorado has established the following state funding priorities for CLG subgrants:

1. Surveys to identify historic/prehistoric resources in order to complete or update local cultural resource inventories
2. Development of historic/prehistoric contexts for evaluation of resources identified during the survey process
3. Comprehensive historic preservation planning that may include:
   - Development of community-wide preservation plans
   - Development of a survey plan
   - Development of architectural design guidelines
   - Improvement of local historic preservation ordinances
4. Nomination of properties to the National, State, or local register
5. Educational speakers, programs, sessions, and conferences for historic preservation commissioners
6. Innovative projects that address the application or development of new methods, tools, or technologies for historic preservation and that have potential for broad application beyond a specific project
7. Public education programs, activities, or publications that create an awareness or understanding of local, state, or federal preservation programs, or that inform broad sectors of the public on preservation issues

Expenses

All expenses must be within state allowable rates. Current mileage and per diem rates are available here. Four-wheel drive expenses must be justified. Lodging rates are reimbursable at cost, but must be reasonable.

Staff time for grant and project management may be included as part of an eligible grant project, but it must be included as an in-kind donation, not reimbursable expenses. All donated staff time must fall within federal rates. Costs associated with staff time must be supported by copies of records showing the employee name, dates, hours worked, dollar amount donated, description of work performed, and signatures of the employee and the employee’s supervisor.
### Eligible Expenses
- Consultant Services
- Supplies and Materials
- Mileage and Travel Expenses

### Ineligible Expenses
- Commemorative markers or plaques
- Staff time, but it may be reported as an in-kind donation
- Acquisition and development (purchase of buildings/structures and construction)
- Food/drink associated with events (this does not include per diem for consultants)

#### Scope of Work

History Colorado strongly advises applicants to consult with HC staff when developing project proposals and to discuss the project scope of work and budget with a professional consultant prior to submitting an application. Grant application reviewers are better able to determine if project costs are reasonable if they are based upon recent estimates. Providing estimates with your application ensures that reviewers will understand the costs associated with your project and that sufficient funds have been requested to complete the proposed scope of work. If you have multiple estimates, base your budget on the highest estimate received. When applicable, include the basis (metrics) used to determine budget figures, for instance, reconnaissance survey of 30 sites @ 5 hours x $50 per hour = $7,500.

Including three (3) estimates for the work to-be-performed in the grant application is recommended, but not required. Once awarded, CLGs will be required to show documentation that they sought proposals from at least three qualified consultants. This can be completed either during the application process, or after a project is awarded. If you have chosen a consultant or narrowed the field, HC advises that you relate that information in the grant application. If a consultant has been selected, you must provide evidence in your application that two additional estimates were received and considered prior to making your selection.

#### Match Requirements

No match is currently required for Colorado CLG subgrants; however, a statement describing the nature of any match—cash or in-kind/volunteer—may make the application more competitive. Many successful past applicants have provided a cash match or in-kind/volunteer match. All volunteer/in-kind hours must be within the maximum allowed by NPS guidelines, which is currently $94.42 per hour.

*Please note:* Because a portion of the funds awarded to CLG grant recipients is provided by the State Historical Fund, CLG grant funds cannot be used to match State Historical Fund grants.

#### Consultant Services

Consultant services are defined as services necessary for the completion of the project that are subcontracted by the CLG. The CLG must follow the requirements of [Title 2 Part 200.318 of the Code of Federal Regulations](https://www.federalregister.gov/) arranging for this type of service. Documentation of this process (procurement standards) is subject to audit.
Standards & Guidelines

Because CLG subgrants are funded by the U.S. Department of Interior’s Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and History Colorado, the scope of work and grant administration must adhere to certain standards and guidelines. All work must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Survey projects must also meet the standards established by History Colorado and detailed in the Colorado Cultural Resources Survey Manual. Work not meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards in the judgment of History Colorado staff shall not be reimbursed. The following documents contain other relevant standards and guidelines for CLG subgrants:

- Historic Preservation Fund Grants Manual (Chapter 9, Section K)
- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200)
- Colorado CLG Handbook
- Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards

Application Instructions

The CLG Grant Application is short and concise, consisting of a completed application form, narrative-form responses to application questions, a detailed combined scope of work and budget, recent W-9, and associated attachments that are vital to comprehending the project, such as photos, maps, or consultant estimates. The free Adobe Reader program is needed to complete the application. Applications must be submitted in PDF format via email by the application deadline. If you need help creating PDFs of your application documents, contact HC staff for assistance. You are encouraged to submit draft applications for HC staff comment prior to the application deadline. Please submit draft applications to erica.duvic@state.co.us for review by December 2, 2019.

Applications must be sent via email to oahp@state.co.us by 5:00pm on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Applicants should use the “request a read receipt” function of their email application to confirm that HC has received the submittal. History Colorado will not accept mailed or faxed CLG grant applications or applications emailed to any address other than oahp@state.co.us. Incomplete applications will be determined ineligible and the applicant will be notified.

Project Information

This section provides the basic information for your grant project and all fields are required. The Name of CLG is the name of your local government (e.g. Town of Sample), not the name of the Historic Preservation Commission. A local government staff person must be identified as the grant recipient contact and their contact information provided. This person will be the primary contact for all matters related to the grant application and agreement, if awarded. The Chief Elected Official is the Mayor or Police Judge for a municipality or chair of the Board of County Commissioners for a county.
Signatures
Three signatures are required for an application to be considered complete to ensure that your project will be successful if funded. The local government staff person responsible for the grant will need to acknowledge that they have read and understand the CLG Subgrant Program policies before signing. The grant application must also be signed by the chair of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Chief Elected Official. CLGs should follow their local government procedures when obtaining signatures for grant applications, which may include a formal vote at a public meeting for the Historic Preservation Commission and/or board of elected officials.

Project Selection
Describe why you have selected this project and why it is a priority for your CLG. A successful CLG grant project will follow your local planning efforts, fulfill your responsibilities as a CLG, be proactive rather than reactive, and is supported by your community.

- Describe how your project will support and inform other current critical preservation efforts in your community.
- If your CLG has a preservation plan or comprehensive plan, how is this project a part of that plan?
- Describe any relevant work or previous phases that have been completed for this project.
- Explain the preservation opportunities that will be affected if the project is not funded.
- Explain any threats to the resource(s) around which your project is centered. Be sure to mention if your project will help to mitigate or eliminate threats.
- Why is the project important for the resource(s) and/or community?
- Demonstrate that all planning is complete and all partnerships are in place. Explain how the project momentum, mobilization, and/or project participants/partners will be affected if funding is not awarded now.
- If other funders are committing to your project, does your cash match need to be spent during a specific period?
- If this project lays the groundwork to meet goals in the future, explain how the proposed project is the next logical step or natural culmination of a multi-phased effort.

Project Team
Describe the project participants, their qualifications, preservation experience, and role in the project.

- What other recent preservation projects has your CLG undertaken?
- Who will manage the grant? What other grants have they managed?
- What roles will CLG staff and/or HPC members play in this project?
- Have you consulted with HC staff and/or qualified consultants?
- Who will serve as the project lead?
- Who will perform the scope of work? Do they meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Qualification Standards?
- Are you pursuing this project jointly with other groups? If so, describe your partners and their role(s).
Project Description
Describe the work to be done in detail.
- What work will be performed?
- Has previous work been done in the project area or at the project site?
- What historic resources are involved (if any)? Provide a brief history of the project site or survey area along with photos and maps.
- How many resources will be addressed by the project?
- What is the historic significance of these resources?
- Are the resources historically designated? If so, at what level?
- What preservation practices will be used?
- How will the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and/or the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Manual requirements be upheld?

Timeline
Describe the timeline of your project, keeping in mind limitations such as weather, professional schedules, and deliverable review time. You are not permitted to begin work on your project under any circumstances until your agreement with History Colorado is finalized. History Colorado’s agreement schedule is dependent on Congress and the National Park Service and the date that HPF funding is available to SHPOs for disbursement to CLGs changes annually. Typically, CLG grant agreements are finalized between May and July. Projects must be fully completed by July 31, 2021. For these reasons, we recommend basing your timeline on a project start date of August 2020 and project completion date of June 2021. Please note that HC guidelines allow up to 30 days for staff review of project deliverables.

Public Benefit & Outreach
Describe the public benefit of your project. Address the following questions and include any other pertinent information.
- What will the community gain from this project?
- Does the community support this project? How do you know? Providing letters of support will help strengthen your application.
- How will the project enhance the preservation ethic or highlight the importance of preservation?
- How will the community know the project is being undertaken?
- Is there a way for community members to become directly involved?
- How will the results or findings of the project contribute to the community’s understanding of its historic resources?
- How will the results or findings be publicized?

Combined Scope of Work & Budget
The scope of work demonstrates to reviewers how your project will unfold and that you have considered all of the elements required to complete a successful project. The scope of work should mirror your timeline and project description.
Components and Line Items
Please break out the components of your project into line items using the outline provided. All of the components should be thoroughly described in your Project Description (Section 3) and found in your Timeline (Section 4).

Costs
Each line item should have an associated cost that is directly sourced from one set of your project bids or estimates. All bids and estimates should be provided as attachments.

Description
Provide a brief list (3-4 lines) of tasks associated with each line item in the description box below. If there are more tasks associated with a line item than will fit in the description box, please break out the component into more than one line item or continue your description using the following budget line and corresponding description box. (e.g. A. Fieldwork and B. Fieldwork continued).

Supplemental Information
In addition to the required Scope of Work and Budget Form, you may submit a supplemental Scope of Work and Budget in your own format to provide additional description of each project component if you think it will help reviewers better understand your project.

State Preservation Plan
Please select at least one goal and three objectives of the State Preservation Plan that your project supports.

- GOAL A: Preserving the Places That Matter
- GOAL B: Strengthening and Connecting the Colorado Preservation Network
- GOAL C: Shaping the Preservation Message
- GOAL D: Publicizing the Benefits of Preservation
- GOAL E: Weaving Preservation Throughout Education
- GOAL F: Advancing Preservation Practices

Attachments
Applicants are required to submit a recently completed IRS Form W-9 with their application. If a W-9 is not included, your application will be considered incomplete and ineligible for funding. It is strongly recommended that you provide estimates, photographs, maps, plan excerpts, and letters of support when applicable.

Estimates demonstrate to reviewers that you have discussed your project with a qualified professional and that your budget and scope of work are accurate. You may include more than one estimate.

Photographs assist reviewers in understanding the resources involved in your project. For survey projects, please provide representative photos of the properties to be surveyed. For nominations, please provide multiple photos of the property or properties being designated.
Maps can illustrate survey boundaries or the location of a property being designated. If you have identified specific properties in a survey area to be surveyed, you should consider including a list of properties in addition to a map.

Plan Excerpts should be taken from your Survey Plan, Preservation Plan, or Comprehensive Plan to demonstrate that this project is part of a larger planning effort. Please only include an excerpt rather than the full plan. You may also include a link to the plan if it is available on your website with a page number reference.

Letters of Support should be provided to demonstrate public support for your project. For surveys or nominations, it is especially beneficial to include a letter of support from property owners. One thoughtful letter is more helpful than multiple generic letters. Letters should not be provided from your own organization as your support is assumed through completion of the grant application. Letters of support must be submitted with the application and will not be accepted if sent directly to History Colorado.

**Application Process & Scoring**

**Review Process**

1. Application processed by HC staff
2. Application scored by 3 HC reviewers
3. Reviewers meet to discuss funding recommendations
4. State Historic Preservation Officer approves final grant awards

When grant applications are received, they are first processed by staff and checked for completeness. Incomplete applications will be determined ineligible and the applicant will be notified. If time allows, CLGs may submit a corrected application as long as it is submitted before the final deadline. For this reason, it is recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible.

After processing, each application is assigned to three History Colorado staff members for review and scoring. Reviewers complete a Grant Review Worksheet for each grant using the established grant criteria and scoring method described below. This sheet includes scores for each section of the application, comments, and a recommendation for full funding, partial funding or no funding. Grant Review Worksheets are available to all applicants upon request and are automatically provided for declined applications.

All applications are ranked by their total score in preparation for the grant review meeting, which typically occurs in February. All grant reviewers are invited to this meeting where each grant is discussed and the group votes on a proposed list of grants to fund. This list is then provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review and final approval.

**Criteria**

Grants are reviewed and scored based on the following criteria and points:

1. Project Selection (15 points)
2. Project Team (15 points)
3. Project Description (20 points)
4. Timeline (10 points)
5. Public Benefit and Outreach (15 points)
6. Combined Scope of Work and Budget (20 points)
7. State Preservation Plan (5 points)

If grant application reviewers believe that there are more projects worthy of funding than available money, they may consider certain non-scored factors. These non-scored factors may include past performance on other CLG requirements such as timeliness in submitting minutes, annual reports, and state tax credit reports, and equitable issues such as geographic representation, number of grants awarded in previous years, and maturity of a local program. Projects requesting funding for segments of a long-term project are not guaranteed funding for future phases. Each year’s grant application will be judged on its merits for the current phase of the proposed project. Applications that are recommended for funding may be fully or partially funded. For example, a grant application for the survey of 30 properties may be awarded for 20 properties.

Award Notifications
Award decisions will be announced on March 1, 2020. Applicants will receive an award letter and a Risk Assessment Form via email, which must be completed and returned before the grant agreement can be executed. Email is the primary method of communication for CLG grants so please ensure that the assigned staff person monitors the email address provided in your application. You may not begin work on your project until you have received your grant agreement.

Reapplications
If your application is declined, you will be contacted by History Colorado staff to discuss the reason(s) for declination and will be provided with the Grant Review Worksheets for your application. You are encouraged to utilize this feedback in preparation for reapplication. CLGs may reapply the following year with a revised application for the same project.

Grant Administration
During the administration of funded projects, it is imperative that adequate and thorough records are maintained. It is also essential that the applicant have the capacity to comply with reporting deadlines on the programmatic and financial aspects of the project in accordance with an agreed upon schedule, as well as if the project were to be audited.

Procurement/Bidding
CLGs are required to show documentation that they sought proposals from at least three qualified consultants for their project. This process may occur before the grant application is submitted, after award notification, or after the grant agreement is received. CLGs should follow the procurement procedures of their local government when seeking proposals or estimates from consultants. Three proposals do not have to be received, but CLGs must demonstrate that they solicited proposals from at least three qualified consultants.
If this process has not been completed prior to the grant application submission, we highly recommend beginning this process upon award notification so that your consultant is in place when your grant agreement is finalized. CLGs **must be under contract with their selected consultant within 60 days of receipt of their fully executed grant agreement**, otherwise their funds will be forfeited. This ensures funding is allocated to projects that will be completed within the timeframe required for these federal funds. CLGs may enter into either a flat fee contract or a non-flat fee contract with their selected consultant.

**Agreements**

Funded applications require that a written agreement exists between HC and the CLG subgrantee. HC will create a written agreement, which will include the federal requirements for the CLG subgrant. You are not permitted to begin work on your project under any circumstances until your agreement with HC is fully executed, which is dependent on Congress and the National Park Service. However, you may work on non-reimbursable aspects of the project such as issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) or selecting a consultant. The date that HPF funding is available to SHPOs for disbursement to CLGs changes annually but agreements are typically finalized between May and July.

The State of Colorado utilizes an agreement that does not require any signatures. For a sample CLG grant agreement, contact Kami Harris at (303) 866-2976 or kami.harris@state.co.us. HC staff will provide you with a draft of the exhibit documents for your review and comment before the agreement is finalized. The exhibits of the agreement (Exhibit A: Scope of Work, Exhibit B: Budget, Exhibit C: List of Submittals) will outline the work to be completed, timeline for project reports and deliverables, as well as the budget structure.

Upon receipt of your fully executed agreement, you may proceed with your project.

**Deadlines**

It is the responsibility of the CLG to adhere to the deadlines outlined in the exhibits of their grant agreement. Due to the funding structure of CLG grants, **there are no extensions**. It is recommended that CLGs provide explicit deadlines in their subcontract with the consultant so that the CLG may enforce these deadlines in the execution of their contract.

**Project Team**

History Colorado provides a staff of two or more people to support each CLG Subgrant who will be introduced during the Kick-off Meeting. The Project Team is comprised of the following members:

- The **Preservation Planner** is the primary point of contact for CLG grants, reviews all deliverables for your project, and should be copied on all communications.
- The **Contracts Specialist** is responsible for preparing the grant agreement and processing all payment requests. All questions regarding agreements, payments, and documentation should be directed to this person.
- The **Project Specialist(s)**, if assigned, is responsible for reviewing specific deliverables in their specialized field(s). Their level of involvement in your project will depend on the project type and will be discussed at the Kick-off Meeting.
Each CLG will provide their own Project Team, depending on the needs of the project. A typical project will include the following personnel:

- The **Local Government Staff** is the person responsible for the successful execution of the grant project on the local level. This person manages the consultant, submits deliverables and payments requests, and represents the local government on all matters related to the project.
- The **Consultant(s)** is the individual(s) or company that completes the items outlined in the Scope of Work.
- The **Historic Preservation Commission** has no defined responsibilities, but, at a minimum, should be involved in the public outreach portion of the project and should be kept apprised of the project’s progress.

### Reimbursement

- CLG subgrants are reimbursement only and all costs must be paid, verified, and documented prior to reimbursement.
- All costs must be in payment for obligations incurred during the project period and obligations made prior to the start date or after the ending date of the agreement will not be approved or reimbursed.
- All costs must represent expenditures that are necessary to the accomplishment of approved grant objectives and as agreed to in the agreement.
- All expenses must be within state allowable rates, as listed in Reporting Expenses.
- No changes or revisions to the project budget may be made without prior written request to and approval from History Colorado.

### Reporting Expenses

The structure of a consultant’s contract with the CLG will determine the level of documentation required. Consultant invoices generated from flat fee contracts should include a list of tasks and
invoiced amount. If the contract between the CLG and consultant is a non-flat fee contract, the CLG is responsible for reporting hourly rates for the consultant. All costs must be supported by copies of invoices. Consultant invoices generated from non-flat fee contracts should include more detailed information about the consultant’s hourly rates, travel expenses (mileage, per diem, lodging), and a breakdown of all other expenses. Current mileage and per diem rates are available here. Four-wheel drive expenses must be justified. Lodging rates are reimbursable at cost, but must be reasonable.

Supplies and Materials
Purchased supplies and materials are those bought specifically for the project. The CLG must follow the requirements of the federal OMB’s Uniform Guidance in the purchase of supplies and materials. Documentation of this process is subject to audit. When not included in flat fee contracts, supply/materials reimbursement requests must be supported by invoices/receipts.

Mileage and Travel Expenses
Mileage costs may be charged to the grant budget for necessary costs incurred. Costs included for reimbursement must be supported with information as follows:

- Project personnel name
- Date of travel
- Purpose of travel
- Number of miles traveled and rate per mile claimed (see Reporting Expenses for current rates).

Other travel costs that are approved must be supported by actual travel expense documents up to the maximum agreed upon in the agreement. Travel expenses should be broken out when CLG has not entered into a flat fee contract with the consultant.

Forms & Reports
The following forms are required for the administration of your CLG Subgrant and can be downloaded from our website. All forms should be submitted to the Preservation Planner for review unless otherwise indicated.

- **Subcontract Certification Form** ensures that your subcontract with your selected consultant(s) complies with the terms of your grant agreement with History Colorado. Please certify each item by initialing and providing relevant page numbers, where requested. This form should be completed and signed by the Local Government Staff person responsible for the grant. This form may be submitted via email.

- **Payment Request and Financial Report Form** or **Financial Reporting System** are used to request payment from History Colorado and report expenses for your project. You should refer to Exhibit C of your grant agreement to find payment amounts and the deliverables that must be submitted before payment can be requested. Documentation of expenses must be submitted with these forms in order for reimbursement to be made. An original signature is required for this form so it must be submitted via mail to the Contracts Specialist.
• **Final Project Report** summarizes the information that must be provided for your final report. The information is used to help us identify ways that we may better serve you and to gather important information relative to the benefits of the Certified Local Government Subgrant Program in Colorado. The Final Project Report may be submitted via email.

**Deliverables**

All deliverables should be submitted via email to the Preservation Planner for review by the deadline provided in your grant agreement. Please include the grant deliverable number(s) from your grant agreement in the subject line of the email. Deliverables that require review by a Project Specialist will be forwarded by staff. It is important that you understand what is required for each deliverable in your contract to ensure you may request payments in a timely manner. Every CLG grant project requires, at minimum, the following five deliverables:

- Documentation of 3 bids (see Procurement/Bidding for more information)
- Consultant Resume(s) (to ensure that selected consultants meet the required Standards)
- Subcontract Certification Form
- Kick-off Meeting (between HC staff, CLG staff, and the selected consultant)
- Final Project Report