



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History

January 12, 2026

TO: All Certified Local Governments (CLGs) in North Carolina

FROM: Ramona Bartos, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: 2026 Historic Preservation Fund Pass-Through Grants

The State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) is now accepting applications for FY 2026 federal Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) pass-through grants, which are available to Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Eligible projects include architectural and archaeological surveys, nominations of eligible districts and properties to the National Register of Historic Places, survey publication manuscripts, local preservation design standards and preservation plans, public education programs (including archaeological), and restoration of National Register-listed properties. *Funds are not available for privately-owned properties.* Eligible applicants are local governments and local historic preservation commissions as well as nonprofit organizations and educational institutions within the jurisdiction of a CLG.

Please note that before preparing and submitting an application, applicants must contact HPO staff to discuss the scope of work and budget of their potential project along with the grant standards and requirements. HPO and Office of State Archaeology (OSA) staff contacts are listed in the attached instructions.

An estimated total of \$140,000 statewide may be available for projects in CLG municipalities and counties, in accordance with federal requirements. A list of CLGs is attached. Unfortunately, funds for non-CLG projects are not available through this program.

Grant awards, which normally cover up to sixty per cent of total project costs, generally range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and are available on a reimbursement basis. *Local matching funds should try to cover at least forty per cent (40%) of the total project costs.* Grant projects will be selected for funding on a competitive basis. Please do not hesitate to contact the grants coordinator if you have a project in mind but may not have a forty percent match available.

Applications must be received electronically by 11:59 p.m. Thursday, April 30, 2026. Nonprofits and educational institutions submitting an application through a CLG should contact their local CLG as soon as possible to confirm internal deadlines to submit their proposed application. See the *Instructions for Completing the 2026 Application* for more details.

Based on federal appropriation timing, we expect to announce awards in summer of 2026. Projects should be underway by the fall of 2026. All projects should be completed by February 29, 2028.

GUIDELINES FOR CLG GRANT APPLICATIONS

- CLG grant applications must be submitted by or through the CLG. Please see the attached list of CLGs in North Carolina.
- CLG governing boards and CLG historic preservation commissions submit their applications to the HPO.
- **NOTE:** Nonprofits and educational institutions may propose an application for a project in a CLG's jurisdiction. The CLG or CLG historic preservation commission would need to be willing to apply on behalf of the nonprofit or educational institution and submit the application to the HPO. The CLG would, therefore, be the grant applicant. The nonprofit or educational institution should submit the proposed application to the CLG commission as soon as possible, to allow time for the commission and local governing board to evaluate it and submit it with comments to the HPO by the **April 30, 2026**, deadline. If a grant is awarded for the project, the CLG would be the grant recipient and would administer the grant project, even if the nonprofit or educational institution provides the local matching funds.

If there are questions about the application process, or there is a project idea you would like to discuss, please contact Michele Patterson McCabe, grants coordinator, at michele.patterson.mccabe@dncr.nc.gov or 919-814-6582. For assistance with developing a project proposal and budget, please contact an HPO or OSA staff member listed in the instructions.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your application.

Enclosures

The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office receives federal funds from the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in federally assisted departmental programs on the basis race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), age, disability, sexual orientation, or genetic information in its federally assisted programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should contact the Equal Opportunity Program Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW MS 2505, Washington, D.C. 20250; visit <https://www.doi.gov/pmb/eeo> or phone (202) 354-1871.