



2024 Preservation Opportunity Fund Grant Guidelines

The Preservation League’s Preservation Opportunity Fund (POF) supports capital improvement projects at significant historic properties in New York State. Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations with an ownership interest in, or a long-term lease of, a historic property requiring preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation, are invited to apply for the inaugural year of funding for the League’s new capital grant program.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in New York State directly engaged in the stewardship of historically significant properties that are accessible to the public. The applicant group must own or have at least a 6-year lease on the building/resource. Private residences are not eligible for this program. Special consideration will be given to those projects that have previously received a consulting grant from the Preservation League. State agencies, groups that steward state-owned buildings, NYS-owned sites, local municipalities, school districts, and private property owners are not eligible for this program. Prior Preservation League grant recipients must have successfully completed their funded project to apply. Eligible groups may apply for only one project per grant cycle.

Eligible Projects

The POF grant will support discrete capital projects on historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Eligible work may include but is not limited to restoration or repair of windows, masonry, roofing/structural systems, historic exteriors/interiors, historic finishes, or electrical and HVAC systems.

Work that is already underway or completed is not eligible for grant funding. This program will not fund acquisition costs, pre-development costs, new construction, or any work that does not physically preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the historic property. All projects funded through the POF are subject to Preservation League review before project work commences and must comply with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR 68).

Grant Funds

Applicants must demonstrate their readiness to complete the project outlined in the application. Work must be completed within eighteen (18) months from the acceptance of the grant agreement or grant funds will be forfeited. Grant funds cannot be used toward applicant staff time or overhead costs or to reimburse project expenses already incurred. Funds will be disbursed upon completion of the project with the receipt of the contractor's invoice.

It is anticipated that grants will range in value from \$10,000 to \$40,000. The minimum grant request is \$10,000. All grants will require at least a 50% funding match from the applicant. This match must be in the form of dedicated, unexpended project funds, and cannot include in-kind donations.

Application Review Criteria

The Preservation League will select grant recipients by considering, among other points, the following criteria:

- **SIGNIFICANCE:** Does the project address a historic resource that is significant, visible, and important to the community and New York State? Project properties do not require listing on the State or National Register of Historic Places.
- **LEVEL OF PRESERVATION:** Will the project protect a historic site, space, building, or element? Will the project comply with the Standards, or can it be adjusted to comply with the Standards?
- **URGENCY:** Is the resource imminently endangered (e.g., by development pressures, erosion, flooding, neglect) or is there a unique window of opportunity to complete the proposed project? Does this project address an urgent public need?
- **CAPACITY:** Does the applicant have a demonstrated understanding of the resource's needs? Do they have the funding, capacity, and expertise to complete the project on time and within budget?

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Have a history of Preservation League involvement
- Benefit traditionally underserved communities
- Prepare historic sites for the Semiquincentennial of the US
- Incorporate training and apprenticeship opportunities in the preservation trades
- Advance sustainability goals in the face of climate change

Application Process & Deadlines

The application process is entirely online through the Preservation League's grant application system, SmarterSelect. You will need to create a user profile for your organization. If your organization has applied for a League grant previously, you will sign into your existing organization profile.

1. Letter of Intent (LOI) - Interested applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) by **March 12, 2024 at 4:59 p.m.** The LOI should be no more than 2 pages and should briefly address the POF criteria listed above as well as provide a brief summary of the proposed project. Complete details are provided in the application portal.
2. Application - After review of the LOIs, a limited number of applicants will be invited to submit a full application. Invitations to apply will be emailed in early April. Full applications will be due **April 30, 2024 at 4:59 p.m.**
3. Applicants will be notified by email 4-6 weeks after the deadline.

Please direct questions to grants@preservenys.org

Applicant Responsibilities & Final Report

The successful applicant must:

1. Sign and return the grant contract prior to commencing the project.
2. Complete the funded project within eighteen months of the contract date.
3. Provide clear before and after photos upon completion of the project that the League will use to promote the program.
4. Work with League staff to publicize the grant and the completion of the project.



The Preservation League of NYS empowers all New Yorkers to use historic preservation to enrich their communities, protect their heritage, and build a sustainable future.

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