



# History of Equal Rights (HER)



Women picketing at the White House, February, 1917.  
Photo courtesy of The Library of Congress.

The goal of the History of Equal Rights grant program is to preserve and protect sites associated with efforts to achieve equal rights. The History of Equal Rights grants are not limited to any specific group and are intended to include the broadest possible interpretation of equal rights for any American.

## Who May Apply

- States and Territories
- Indian Tribes that meet the definition in 54 USC 300309 and Native Hawaiian Organizations that meet the definition in 54 USC 300314
- Local Governments, including Certified Local Governments
- Non-profit Organizations

## What Is Funded

### Pre-preservation and Preservation Projects

- Preservation projects must range from \$75,000 to \$500,000 in federal share, of which 10% may go toward pre-preservation costs such as architectural or engineering services. Grant applications that solely involve pre-preservation work must range from \$15,000 to \$50,000.
- Preservation projects fund physical preservation of a historic site to include historic districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects. Projects must comply with relevant laws, such as Section 106 and NEPA, and execute a preservation covenant/easement.
- Eligible costs: pre-preservation studies, architectural plans and specifications, historic structure reports, and the repair and rehabilitation of historic properties according to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation*.
- Properties must be **listed in or eligible for listing** in the National Register of Historic Places or designated a National Historic Landmark either individually or as part of a district. Significance must be associated with equal rights. Projects that are not listed on the National Register or are not listed in association with equal rights must include a nomination or amendment to an existing nomination as part of their project.

## What Is Not Funded

- Construction of new buildings
- Acquisition of collections or historic sites
- Long-term maintenance or curatorial work beyond the grant period
- Reconstructing historic properties (recreating all or a significant portion that no longer exists)
- Moving or work on moved historic properties that are no longer eligible for listing in the NRHP

- Cash reserves, endowments, revolving funds, or fund-raising costs
- Work performed prior to announcement of award
- Lobbying or advocacy activities
- Costs for work already completed or funded through other federal programs
- Administrative costs may not be over 25% of project budget
- Miscellaneous costs, contingencies, reserves, or overhead

## 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. Panel recommendations will be made to the Secretary of the Interior who will select successful applicants and forward to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. NPS will conduct risk assessments on all projects prior to funding. Matching funds are not required, but may be considered as part of the evaluation 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. All criteria are rated equally. You are required to provide a detailed narrative of these elements using the project description and budget justification worksheets.

1. **Significance:** Describe the historic resource(s) in the proposed project that played a role in the struggle for equal rights. Describe the community and the historic resources affected by this project including its significance and whether they are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or designated at the state, tribal, or local level. Discuss how your project will help identify and preserve places seminal to the story of equal rights.
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 (located below) and budget justification (separate document) 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.

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## Process and Deadlines

This program is administered by the National Park Service. Congress has appropriated \$3,375,000 for this grant program in Fiscal Year 2021. Applications are likely to open in the fall of 2021. 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 or applications. To be notified when the opportunity opens, please visit grants.gov and subscribe to a saved search for CFDA number 15.904. You can create a saved search on grants.gov under the "Connect" menu.

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### Additional Information

Visit <https://go.nps.gov/her> for more information about this grant program.

For more information on our other programs, please visit [www.nps.gov/stlpg](http://www.nps.gov/stlpg)

**For application assistance:**  
National Park Service  
STLPG@nps.gov  
202-354-2020

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