

## EVALUATION of APPLICATIONS for STATE PRESERVATION GRANTS

*Adopted by the RIHPHC September 7, 2021*

The following criteria are used to evaluate applications for State Preservation Grants. Applications may be awarded a maximum of 50 points. Overall scores may be used to rank and sort applications to facilitate discussion among reviewers. The Review Committee's final recommendations to the Commission for grant funding will be based on a statewide group of projects considering all the evaluation criteria.

**(1) HISTORICAL/ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (10 points):** 1-10 points will rate the property's historical and architectural significance.

Excellent projects will further the preservation of significant historic properties. This evaluation factor tries to measure the relative historical and architectural significance of applicants' properties.

- 1-3 points: properties that contribute to the overall significance of a historic district but lack individual significance.
- 4-6 points: properties within a historic district or individually registered that are very good examples of their type and/or important local landmarks.
- 7-10 points: properties that possess individual distinction and are considered significant when compared with other historic properties throughout the state.

**(2) PROJECT NEED (10 points):** 1-10 points will rate the project's physical preservation needs.

Excellent projects will undertake restoration and construction work that is needed to preserve the historic property and to fulfill its mission as a museum or cultural art center or public historic site. This evaluation factor tries to measure the value of the proposed project work.

- 1-3 points: projects that do not address important historic features and that have little impact on the operation of the public historic site, museum, or cultural art center.
- 4-6 points: projects that make a long-term improvement and preserve character-defining features of the building and/or make a needed improvement to the building's function as a public historic site, museum, or cultural art center.
- 7-10 points: projects that address a significant threat to the building's preservation or restore unusually significant historic features, and/or make a crucial improvement to the building's function as a public historic site, museum, or cultural art center.

**(3) PROJECT IMPACT (10 points):** 1-10 points will rate the project's ability to serve the public and to attract support.

Excellent projects will serve the larger community in addition to meeting a need of the historic property. This evaluation factor tries to measure the extent to which the completed project will benefit people who live in the community and recognizes public use of the public historic site, museum, or cultural art center. This factor also measures the ability of a State Preservation Grant to leverage other support for the project.

- 1-3 points: the project will serve relatively few people and will not significantly enhance public access, activities, or cultural programming.
- 4-6 points: the project will serve many people in its community; it will be visible; and it demonstrates local support.
- 7-10 points: the project will serve many people in its community and throughout its region or statewide; it will be highly visible; and it has generated widespread support in its own community and beyond.

(4) **DISTRIBUTION (10 points):** 1-10 points will rate the project's ability to address the needs of significantly underserved populations and/or will recognize the application as the strongest in its town or region.

Excellent projects will increase access or engagement with historically marginalized communities or constituencies (BIPOC or people with disabilities, for examples) and/or take place in an underserved geographic location of the state. This evaluation factor tries to ensure equitable distribution of funded projects to communities statewide.

- 1-3 points: the project is not anticipated to lead to increased access or engagement with historically underserved communities; it will not take place in an underserved town or region
- 4-6 points: the project will impact underserved parts of the applicant's community and/or it will take place in an underserved town or region.
- 7-10 points: the project is anticipated to lead to increased access or engagement with historically underserved communities; it will impact underserved parts of the applicant's community; will take place in an underserved town or region; it is overall the strongest application submitted in its town or region.

(5) **CAPACITY TO SUCCEED (10 points):** 1-10 points will rate the applicant's organizational strength, fundraising, and financial and administrative capacity to complete a successful grant project.

Excellent applicants will demonstrate their ability to supply matching funds, plan, and carry out a successful project within a 24-month period. This evaluation factor tries to measure the probability that an organization has the adequate experience, personnel, and financial controls to manage a State Preservation Grant.

- 1-3 points: the organization has limited experience with fundraising, grants management, or successful capital projects; and may be experiencing budget challenges.
- 4-6 points: the organization is fiscally sound, has experience with fundraising, grants management, and successful capital projects, and can demonstrate a strong track record of supplying matching funds for grant projects.
- 7-10 points: The organization has extensive experience with fundraising, grants management, and successful capital projects, is fiscally sound, and has matching funds in-hand at the time of application.