

FFY 2021 Certified Local Government Grants

RIHPHC Staff Funding Recommendations
April 14, 2021

FFY 2021 CLG Grants

- 8 proposed projects
- \$65,500 requested
- Minimum to award: \$65,205*

* anticipates Historic Preservation Fund grant to RIHPHC of \$652,054

There is sufficient funding this year to fund all proposed projects.

Recommended for Funding

Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment of Historic Structures in the Flood Zone (Bristol)

- Bristol proposes to hire a consultant to inventory and assess the significance of cultural resources located within the town's 100-year floodplain boundary.
- This information will help the town determine which properties are subject to the greatest potential damage and what the potential losses would be from different flooding scenarios.
- Consultant will use worksheets from the FEMA guide "Integrating Historic Properties and Cultural Resources into Hazard Mitigation Planning" to itemize the community value and total losses for historic properties.
- The final work product will be the data collected from these worksheets, a GIS map of affected parcels, and a summary report that will be used to inform Bristol's required Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update (due in 2022).
- Recommended funding: \$7,000 grant \$0 cash match **\$7,000 total project** (+in-kind)

City-wide Assessment of Historic Resources and Preservation Priorities (Cranston)

- Cranston proposes to hire a consultant to update the City's historic resources inventory and to prepare a summary report of preservation priorities, goals, and objectives in preparation for the City's next Comprehensive Plan update.
- The consultant's report will:
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the City's current preservation initiatives
 - Determine whether the identified historic resources are threatened or likely to be threatened by inappropriate land uses
 - Identify any city policies or activities currently in effect that could adversely impact historic/cultural resources
 - Identify any competing priorities or conflicts between the protection of historic/cultural resources and other elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Recommended funding: \$9,000 grant \$0 cash match \$9,000 total project (+in-kind)

Adaptive Reuse Feasibility Study of the Old Post Office (Cumberland)

- Cumberland proposes to hire an architectural consultant to identify needed improvements to the Old Post Office, a town-owned building at 16 Mill St. located within the Cumberland Town Hall NR Historic District, and to formulate goals for its full redevelopment.
- The study will evaluate the exterior and interior conditions of the building, recommend and prioritize repairs, and provide cost estimates.
- It will also include an Alternatives Analysis that evaluates various reuse scenarios.
- The study will serve as the basis for developing a bid package for interior and exterior restoration of the building and would achieve a town comprehensive plan goal (“Decide on adaptive reuse and restoration program of the Neves Building [Old Post Office] adjacent to Town Hall.”)
- Recommended funding: \$10,000 grant \$500 cash match **\$10,500 total project** (+in-kind)

Grange Road Historic District Survey and Recommendations (North Smithfield)

- North Smithfield proposes to hire a consultant to survey and conduct preliminary research for a potential NR Historic District on Grange Road in North Smithfield. Consultant will develop recommendations regarding the area's eligibility including potential boundaries, period of significance, NR criteria, and contributing/non-contributing status of resources.
- Area was identified in RIHPHC survey (1980) as worthy of consideration for National Register nomination:

Grange Road Historic District:[†] The District, 18th century in origin and agricultural in aspect, comprises the section of Grange Road, roughly seven tenths of a mile long, north of Providence Pike, and a short section of Rocky Hill Road where the two roads meet. Within the district are four 18th-century farm complexes, including farmhouses, barns, and other outbuildings; a former schoolhouse; a grange hall; three historical cemeteries; fields bounded with stone walls; and the two, little-altered, narrow roadways. This bucolic area is a very good and rare example of Rhode Island's rural agrarian landscape.

- Project will also include an informational meeting with property owners within the proposed district to provide information on the NR and to promote the town's new historic homeowner rehabilitation tax credit.
- Recommended funding: \$5,000 grant \$2,500 cash match **\$7,500 total project cost**

Neutaconkanut Hill Park Survey and National Register Evaluation (Providence)

- Project to be managed by non-profit Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy
- NHC will hire a consultant to evaluate the park's eligibility for NR listing. The scope of work will include:
 - A survey of the park's historic resources, including an assessment of their significance and integrity
 - A review of existing literature on the history of Neutaconkanut Hill
 - Research into the recreational history of the property and its development during the WPA era
 - Outreach to Tribes to determine whether Neutaconkanut Hill is considered significant from a Native American perspective
- Work products will include a map of the park, a spreadsheet of historic resources within the park, and a narrative report that 1) summarizes its historical development, 2) summarizes the significance and integrity of the park as a whole and its individual resources, and 3) provides recommendations re: NR eligibility, applicable criteria, areas of significance, and period of significance.
- Project will include a public meeting to present findings.
- Recommended funding: \$9,000 grant \$0 cash match **\$9,000 total project cost**

Diversifying the Online Guide to Providence Architecture (Providence)

- Project to be managed by Providence Preservation Society
- PPS proposes a project to diversify its Online Guide to Providence Architecture by adding sites associated with underrepresented groups and updating the information provided about existing sites in the guide.
- Process will incorporate information from the LGBTQ+ historical sites tour (developed over the last several years in partnership with RIHPHC, PPL, and others) as well as information from Go Providence’s “Early Black History Tour” and/or the College Hill Historic District Additional Documentation.
- The scope of work will include:
 - Adding 12+ new sites to the online guide
 - Updating descriptions for 35 sites already listed
 - Creating a community engagement process to gather input about other sites that should be considered for inclusion and to disseminate the updated Online Guide (to include a print mailing, digital engagement tools, and possible in-person programming)
 - Creating new tours for LGBTQ+ and College Hill African American History within the Online Guide.
- The grant will also fund PPS’s Diversity in Preservation internship, a position that engages students from backgrounds historically excluded from preservation and cultural heritage careers.
- Recommended funding: \$8,500 grant \$3,500 cash match **\$12,000 total project** (+in-kind)

Historic District Design Standards and Guidelines and Public Outreach Program (**Warwick**)

- The Warwick HDC will hire a consultant to provide graphic design services for their recently completed Historic Property Owner's Guide.
- Grant will also fund printing and mailing of the guide to all property owners in Warwick local historic districts.
- Recommended funding: \$7,000 grant (increase of 2,100 from original ask) \$0 cash match **\$7,000 total project** (+in-kind)

Annual Statewide Preservation Conference (Reserve)

- RIHPHC will reserve \$10,000 for planning and coordination of the 36th Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, to be held in Spring 2022.

Total Funding Recommendation

Applicant/CLG	Project Title	Grant Amount
Town of Bristol	Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment of Historic Structures in the Flood Zone	7,000
City of Cranston	City-Wide Assessment of Historic Resources and Preservation Priorities	9,000
Town of Cumberland	Adaptive Reuse Feasibility Study of the Old Post Office	10,000
Town of North Smithfield	Grange Road Historic District Survey and Recommendations	5,000
City of Providence/ Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy	Neutaconkanut Hill Park Survey and National Register Evaluation	9,000
City of Providence/PPS	Diversifying the Online Guide to Providence Architecture	8,500
City of Warwick	Historic District Standards and Guidelines and Public Outreach Program	7,000
Reserve (Conference)	36 th Statewide Historic Preservation Conference	10,000
		\$65,500