



Guidelines for the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Heritage Development Grant Program

I. Background

The [Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area](#) (HRVNHA) makes grants to qualified organizations for projects that recognize, preserve, protect and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the Nation.

Projects should resonate with at least one of the following interpretive themes outlined in the HRVNHA Management Plan:

- **Freedom and Dignity** (Revolutionary War, Underground Railroad and abolitionists, Roosevelt Legacy, Native American Heritage);
- **Nature and Culture** (Hudson River Painters, Landscapes of Extraordinary Scenic Character, Exceptional Landscape Design and Architectural Distinction, Environmental Legacy); and
- **Corridor of Commerce** (Community, Agriculture, and Settled Landscapes; Labor Movements; Technical and Industrial Innovations).

II. Program Goals

Priority will be given to projects that exhibit the following qualities:

- Feature a designated [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Heritage Site](#);
- Advance the mission of the HRVNHA and the objectives of its [Management Plan](#);
- Create permanent or semi-permanent programming and include mechanisms for sustainability beyond the grant funding;
- Promote heritage sites as tourism destinations and encourage visitation;
- Involve partnerships with other heritage sites, municipalities, and for profit or not-for-profit organizations and connect multiple heritage sites thematically or geographically;
- Target new audiences, including urban and rural populations, youth, and minority populations;

- Promote recreational activities and connections to local and regional recreational assets like the [Hudson River Greenway Trail System](#) and the [Empire State Trail](#);
- Part of a larger local/regional/statewide heritage initiative like [Path Through History](#) or the [Hudson River Valley Ramble](#);
- Create or further develop opportunities for public education about our history;
- Experiential programming or interpretation;
- Use technology to engage new audiences and visitors;

III. Who May Apply

Municipalities located within the geographic area of the HRVNHA and **not-for-profit corporations** can apply for projects located within the geographic area of the HRVNHA.

Geographic Area of the HRVNHA: Includes the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia, Greene, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, and the Village of Waterford in Saratoga County.

Municipality: A local public authority or public benefit corporation, a county, city, town, village, school district, supervisory district, district corporation, improvement district within a county, city, town or village, or American Indian nation or tribe recognized by the state or the United States with a reservation wholly or partly within the boundaries of New York State, or any combination thereof.

Not-for-profit Corporation: A corporation formed pursuant to the not-for-profit corporation law and qualified for tax-exempt status under the federal internal revenue code.

IV. General Guidelines

- Awards from \$1,000 to \$7,500 dollars for individual awards;
- This is a matching grant program requiring “dollar for dollar” match of funds awarded;
- HRVNHA grant assistance toward the cost of the projects shall not exceed 50% of the approved project's cost. After the grant award is made, the HRVNHA shall not be responsible for cost-sharing any increases in the total cost of the project;
- Local match may be provided as in-kind services or other monetary contribution;
- Volunteer time must be counted at the standardized rate for New York State (<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>), unless a professional rate applies and is justified in writing. This rate is adjusted on an annual basis and is subject to change without advance notice;
- Federal funds cannot be used as a match for this grant;

- The applicant must provide a project schedule for each phase of funding, with projected costs and an estimated timeline for completion;
- If a project involves the development of a plan or similar product, final disbursement of funding will not be made until the plan is completed in final form;
- Projects must involve places or buildings that are publicly-accessible;
- Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis;
- HRVNHA has full discretion in the amount of funding available for this program and the amounts individually awarded to awardees.

Project Term:

- If awarded, the project term will start March 11, 2026 and end September 30, 2027. No extensions will be provided. Fund distribution will be made on a reimbursement basis at the project’s conclusion upon HRVG approval of a final report.

V. Budget Summary Instructions

Grant Application Budget: All applicants are required to complete the provided “Budget Summary” Excel spreadsheet and identify project expenditures including the Funds Requested, Cash and In-Kind Match, and Outside Funds.

Funds Requested: List expenses that your organization would like to apply grant funds to. Several lines are provided for details in each category (Contractual/Professional, Equipment/Supplies/Materials, and Construction).

Match: List all expenses that will apply towards the match, including in-kind labor (volunteer and staff salaries under in-kind services. Other Federal funding cannot be shown here and must be counted in the Outside Funds tab. **The amount listed for Total Match must equal or exceed the amount shown in Funds Requested.**

Outside Funds: Document other funds not in Match that will be used on the project. All federal funding must be documented in this section. Outside Funds may include other Federal grants or funds that cannot be applied to matching funds or other funding that you might show to demonstrate project viability.

VI. Ineligible Projects and Expenditures

- Transportation and admission expenses related to school field trips;
- Computer equipment, including laptops, desktops, iPads, phones (interpretive displays allowed);
- Acquisition of property or facilities including buildings and sites;
- Payment for previous activities;
- Reduction of existing debt;
- Political or religious activities;
- Support for existing staff unrelated to the proposed project;
- Additions to reserve funds or endowments of an organization;
- Projects or programs that will re-grant the funds received;

- Marketing unrelated to the requested project.

VII. Grant Recipient Responsibilities

This grant program is federally funded. Grant recipients must adhere to all regulations and laws applicable to the use of federal funds for the proposed project. The grantee must comply with the following, as applicable:

- 2-CFR: Uniform Administrative Requirements; A-97: Provisions of Specialized and Technical Services to State and Local Governments; A-136: Financial Reporting Requirements, as applicable.

All federal/state/local rules and regulations, including those related to procurement. The grant recipient is also responsible for adhering to all Federal, State and Local laws including local sign ordinances;