



America250MI History Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is America250MI and how can the History Grant Program help my organization?

America250MI is Michigan's statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history and the impact that these, and various historical events, had on the people of Michigan's past, present and future.

The History Grant Program is an investment in Michigan's history and an opportunity for history organizations, communities and local governments to work together to explore and preserve their history. Awarded projects will help preserve Michigan's stories that can guide us over the next 250 years.

Who can apply for an America250MI History Grant?

Eligible applicants are either organizations focused on history or preservation or tribal governments, 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and local units of government that partner with organizations focused on history or preservation.

Do organizations that are not focused on history need a partner that is focused on history?

Yes, the America250MI History Grant Program requires at least one of the project partners be an organization focused on history or preservation. These organizations include, but are not limited to, museums, historic sites, historical societies, archives, historical libraries, reenactment groups, history departments at educational institutions or historical foundations.

What are the funding amounts available?

- Tier 3: \$25,001-\$50,000, with a 30% match
- Tier 2: \$5,001-\$25,000, with a 15% match
- Tier 1: \$2,500-\$5,000, with no match requirement

What projects are eligible to be funded?

Projects must interpret, preserve or explore Michigan's rich history and have a lasting impact on the history field in Michigan. They must focus on one or more of America250MI's 5 Guiding Themes.

We are interested in funding a broad range of projects including, but not limited to, planning, research, education, collections management, programs, exhibits, interpretive signs, digital, capital improvements, publications, preservation, technology/software and access.

What are some examples of projects that might be funded?

- A new exhibit or interpretive signs that focus on a story or community not yet represented at a museum or historic site.
- Buying equipment or storage materials for collections that will improve long-term preservation.
- Co-creating an educational curriculum with the community or group that the curriculum is focused on.
- Bricks and mortar work and/or conservation work on significant artifacts and historic sites.
- Purchasing software or hardware that will improve access to programs or collections.

How will the timeline be determined?

Applicants must include a realistic timeline for the project as part of their application. After projects are selected for funding, grant officers will work with grantees to determine specific milestones based on the project scope and timeline proposed in the application. Expenses will be covered until December 30, 2026. Extensions due to project delays may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

How will I receive project funds?

All funds will be distributed as reimbursements via SIGMA (Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications) Vendor Self Service. SIGMA standardizes statewide budgeting processes, accounting activities, payment processing, bids and grant opportunities. Grantees will submit necessary receipt and documentation to the grant officers who will submit reimbursements in SIGMA.

All applicants are required to include their SIGMA ID in their grant application.

How do I get a SIGMA ID?

If you are not already registered for SIGMA Vendor Self Service, you can fill out an electronic application [here](#). You will only have to do this process once.

If you already have a SIGMA ID number, but do not know it, [follow these instructions](#).

For help with SIGMA VSS, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/budget/budget-offices/sigma/doing-business-with-the-state> or call 888-734-9749 (Mon.-Fri. 7AM-5PM EST).

How will projects be selected for funding?

Applications will be reviewed and scored by members of the America250MI committee. Applications will be scored on:

- Relevance of project to the five America250MI themes (30%)
- Demonstrated ability to complete project (30%)
- Outcomes, Impact and Access (20%)
- Partnerships and collaboration (10%)
- Originality and quality (5%)
- Budget (5%)

What are the key factors that America250MI will consider in grant applications?

Successful applications will show how their project will address the America250MI themes, impact and enduring value, collaboration, broadening access and project completion in their application narrative. The application narrative does ask specific questions about these factors, and you can review the Grant Booklet for more information about each of these factors.

Application questions will be available for download on March 1, 2025.

What does interpret, preserve or explore Michigan history mean?

All projects must be related to Michigan history in some way.

Interpretation: Explain historical events, artifacts and narratives in a way that provides context and meaning to the public. This can include creating educational materials, developing exhibits or facilitating discussions.

Preservation: Safeguard and protect historical sites, artifacts, documents and traditions from deterioration or loss. This includes maintaining local museums, conserving artifacts or documenting cultural practices.

Explore: Investigate and study various aspects of Michigan's past. This can include researching historical events, collecting oral histories or cataloging collections.

What does lasting impact and enduring value mean?

Projects with impact and enduring value expand the public's understanding of Michigan history and our shared culture and identity. They are projects that are outwardly focused.

The benefits, lessons or knowledge of these projects have long-term significance that are directly relevant to the communities the organizations serve.

What are traditionally underrepresented communities?

Generally, underrepresented communities can be determined on a project-by-project basis. Typically, these are communities whose stories are not currently being told or can be told in a new way. These communities might lack access based on geography, economic conditions, cultural background, language, sociopolitical circumstances, ability, age or other factors. “Community” may refer to a group with common heritage or characteristics.

Do projects have to be related to Michigan’s history during the American Revolution?

No, projects are not required to be related to Michigan’s history during the American Revolution (1700s), but they are required to be related to one of the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes. The 5 Guiding Themes can be found in the [America250MI Program Guide](#).

Can staff time, volunteer hours or in-kind donations count towards the match for Tier 2 and Tier 3?

No, existing staff salaries, volunteer hours or in-kind donations cannot count towards the match for Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects. Eligible cash match may include partial cost of grant-funded items, separate contracts, purchase of equipment or supplies required to project completion.

Are organizations limited to the number of projects they can submit?

An organization may only apply for one grant as the Applicant/Project Sponsor per grant round but can be listed as an organization or stakeholder for multiple projects, as long as the projects do not overlap.

I am partnering with an organization that is already applying. Can I also apply for a grant?

If you are partnering with another applicant, you can also apply as long as the projects are not overlapping.

If I am not awarded funds in Round 1 can I reapply?

Yes, applicants who did not receive grant funding in Round 1 can reapply with the same or a different project in Round 2.

If I receive a grant in Round 1, can I apply for Round 2?

Yes, successful grantees in Round 1 are eligible for Round 2 if the application is for a new project.

Will you contact me if my application is missing anything? Can I add or edit applications after submitting?

No, due to capacity and resources we cannot facilitate contacting applicants about missing information or editing applications after submitting.

Who can I contact with questions about the America250MI History Grant Program?

For questions about the grant application contact:

Robert Doran-Brockway

Grants.America250MI@gmail.com

517-376-4848

Office hours:

March 1, 2025 - April 15, 2025

Mondays 8 A.M. – 9 A.M.

Wednesdays 4 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Fridays 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.