



America250MI History Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

We recommend reviewing the Grant Booklet, FAQ and Grant Application before starting your History Grant Program application.

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 other historical events, have 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, tribes 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.

Can I apply if I wasn't funded in Round 1?

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

Can I apply for Round 2 if I received a grant in Round 1?

Yes, successful grantees in Round 1 are eligible for Round 2 if the application is for a new project. Additional funding for projects that received grants in Round 1 is not available.

What are the funding amounts available?

- Tier 3: \$25,001-\$50,000, with a 30% of grants amount as match
- Tier 2: \$5,001-\$25,000, with a 15% of grants amount as 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.

The 5 Guiding Themes can be found in the [America250MI Program Guide](#).

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.

What projects are NOT eligible?

Ineligible projects include:

- Projects not related to Michigan history
- Land acquisitions
- Projects without an external focus
- Purchasing collections
- Parades, ribbon cutting events
- Fundraising events
- Trailheads
- Public art projects

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 monthly. SIGMA standardizes statewide budgeting processes, accounting activities, payment processing, bids and grant opportunities. Grantees will submit necessary receipts and documentation to the grant officers who will submit reimbursements in SIGMA. Until final completion of the project including expenditure and documentation of match, 10% of the grant will be withheld for Tier 2 and 3.

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).

What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

If a project is selected for funding, the grantee's eligible expenses include costs related to project completion. This includes planning, research, education, collections management, programs, exhibits, interpretive signage, digital, capital improvements, publications, preservation, technology/software and access.

Only project costs that are incurred after the representatives for the grantees and the Department of Natural Resources sign the project agreement are eligible for reimbursement.

What is the reimbursement rate for mileage?

Mileage is calculated at \$0.39 per mile.

What expenses are NOT eligible?

Ineligible costs include:

- Maintenance outside of the grant period
- Tuition and fees, conferences, travel, lodging, meals, group meals and mileage unrelated to project completion
- Costs incurred outside project timeline
- Admission reimbursements
- Salaries/fringes of full- and part-time permanent staff
- Food, alcohol, parties, parades, ribbon cuttings, receptions
- Contingency funds
- Administrative overhead

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 America250MI 5 Guiding themes (30%)
- Demonstrated ability to complete project (20%)
- Outcomes, Impact and Access (20%)
- Partnerships and collaboration (20%)
- Originality and innovation (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 5 Guiding Themes, impact and enduring value, collaboration, broadening access and project completion in their application narrative. Preference will be for new projects that would not be happening without the History Grant Program funding and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

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 November 1, 2025.

How do I learn about the 5 Guiding Themes?

You can find the 5 Guiding Themes and how to connect them to your project in the America250MI [Program Guide](#).

How detailed should my answers be?

Your application narrative should clearly and thoroughly answer the application questions. In Round 1, Tier 3 applications were very competitive, and successful applications were expansive and detailed. After reading your application, reviewers should understand “how” your project relates to the America250MI commemoration and “why” the project is important to your organization and community.

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.

Quick Example: A project to restore and preserve a Michigan historic site that includes a durable on-site plaque, a plan for community-participation in long term maintenance and volunteer-led events that welcome new groups to the site.

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.

Quick Example: An exhibit about a community not represented in your museum that includes bilingual interpretive labels, artifacts that represent their history and community oral history interviews.

What are the expectations for partnerships?

Projects should include partners and bring together stakeholders from across your community, especially with people or organizations you have never worked with before. Successful applications will clearly define:

- The roles and expectations for each partner.
- Partner involvement in the planning, development and implementation of the project.
- What new partners are involved in the project?
- How the project will result in deeper relationships and long-term collaboration?

Quick Example: A project will be led by the Local History Society. Partner A (Historic Preservation Organization) will handle preservation/interpretation. Partner B (DAR chapter)

will coordinate volunteers and outreach. Partner C (County Library) will support education programs. Together they write a simple agreement that outlines each partner's responsibilities and a plan for ongoing collaboration beyond the grant period.

What do originality and innovative mean?

Successful applicants will explain how their project is original for their organization, area of Michigan or the history field. Projects should include different perspectives with a finer nuance and complexity in interpretation.

Quick Example: An oral-history project that brings together multi-generational families and invites them to co-curate a digital exhibit.

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 or more of the America250MI 5 Guiding Themes. Successful applications will illustrate clearly how their project relates to the America250MI themes and the 250th anniversary.

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.

A funding match is a financial contribution from your organization or partners that demonstrates commitment to the project. 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.

Outside of the required materials, should I upload other documents like quotes or letters of support?

Additional materials can supplement your application but are not required. Organizations that do not provide additional materials will not be penalized, but these materials can also help reviewers understand your project better.

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?

Three grant webinars will be held before the closing date of January 15, 2026. Check our website, newsletter or social media pages for updates on webinars.

For questions about the grant application contact:

Robert Doran-Brockway
America250MI@gmail.com
517-376-4848

Live Office Hours:

Provides participants with an opportunity to ask questions and receive personalized guidance on their History Grant Application. Visit our [Grant Portal](#) to sign up for 30-minute time slots to discuss your grant application starting November 1, 2025.

You must sign up for live office hours.

November 3, 2025, through December 22, 2025*

Mondays 8:00A.M. - 10:00A.M.

Wednesdays 2:00P.M. - 4:00P.M.

Fridays 12:00P.M. - 2:00P.M.

**Updated office hours will be listed on the Grant Portal starting January 6.*

History Grant Program Webinar

An informative session that reviews each step of the History Grant Program application, shares examples of successful applications from Round 1 and provides essential tips to enhance submissions. The webinar will provide attendees with the necessary skills for success.

Visit our [Grant Portal](#) to sign up for a grant webinar starting November 1, 2025. A Zoom link will be sent to you a week before and the day of the grant webinar.