

America250KY Kentucky Heritage Council Preservation Grant Application

ROUND 1

Goals: The Kentucky Heritage Council's (KHC) America250KY 2024-25 grants aim to support the physical preservation of historic properties in Kentucky that reflect on broad themes associated with America's 250-year history. This grant opportunity is being administered by the KHC on behalf of the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) and the Kentucky Sestercentennial Commission.

America250KY

As the United States prepares to celebrate the 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the KHS, KHC and partners across the commonwealth are exploring the history of the state from the nation's founding to today.

This commemoration will recognize the people, places, and events over the past 250 years that created our shared history. It will also allow us to examine Kentucky's role in the development of the United States and how our country's ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice have evolved since 1776.

Through educational programs, preservation projects and statewide events and activities, we will celebrate our history while considering what it means to be a Kentuckian.

For more information, visit history.ky.gov/participate/america250ky

Themes of the America250KY

The success of this application is based on several factors, including how well the five America250KY themes are included within the project. The themes include:

Revolutionary Experiment

Our founding mothers and fathers did not have all the answers. They knew America was a revolutionary experiment and they expected future generations to improve upon their work. The four editions of the Kentucky constitution serve as a prime example of this experiment as people advocated for their inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This history is not always uphill, but full of both advancements and setbacks. This theme allows us to reflect on Kentucky's and the nation's founding ideals and encourages discussions about our democracy and civic institutions.

We The People

Since the settlement of Kentucky lands by Native groups, what it means to be a Kentuckian has changed. The definition and process of citizenship has altered drastically over the past 250 years in both Kentucky and the United States. Today, there are many different people that call Kentucky home.

Power of Place

Our natural and built environments shape our identities. Over the past 250 years, our environment and those that reside in it, have changed. Across the regions of Kentucky today, how people identify with the Commonwealth varies. Although our experiences and perspectives differ from region to region, we all share history. This history allows us to draw similarities between different places to help us better understand the past and present.

Crossroads in History

Since 1776, Kentucky has stood at the crossroads of multiple historic movements, from westward expansion, the Civil War, the Trail of Tears, the Underground Railroad, the Great Migration, and more. Moreover, Kentucky's political and cultural output has expanded far beyond the state, influencing our nation's history and broader social trends.

Doing History

By exploring state and local history during the 250th, Kentuckians can use the past to better understand our roles and responsibilities within our communities today. To accomplish this, Kentuckians can visit museums and historic sites and discuss why history is important today. By engaging with history, we become better informed citizens who understand where America has been and where it's going.

Eligibility Requirements - The following may apply:

Applicable local government agencies, and 501(c)3 not-for-profit institutions are eligible for grant funds; examples include local history organizations, public libraries, educational institutions.

Those who are NOT eligible include for-profit businesses and private individuals.

Eligible entities must register a vendor account through VSS (vendor self-service - link below) and provide their vendor number with the Application along with a completed Annual Affidavit (attached).

<https://vss.ky.gov>

Criteria

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Meaningful preservation projects that commemorate state and local history on or around July 4, 2026
- Brick-and-mortar projects
- Heritage conservation projects
- Interpretive signs
- Events and public programs focused on historic properties

- Preservation focused educational programs

Projects that are NOT eligible include:

- Building maintenance, utilities, grounds keeping, insurance costs, interest or debt payments, or other projects that KHS considers to fall under an organizations' day-to-day or administrative operations
- Personnel, payroll, or benefits
- Purchasing collections
- State historical markers
- Fundraising events
- Oral history projects (the Kentucky Oral History Commission, administered by the Kentucky Historical Society, already offers a variety of grants for the preservation and creation of oral histories; see history.ky.gov for more information)

Application scoring is based on the following:

- Relevance of project to America250KY themes (30%)
- Demonstrated ability to complete project (30%)
- Outcomes and Impact (25%)
- Originality and quality (10%)
- Budget (5%)

Scores are judged by a qualified grant review committee. The committee reviews applications according to the above specified grant guideline requirements. The grant review committee reserves the right to disqualify any application that does not meet the minimum requirements or the purpose of the grants.

The **application deadline for Round 1 is April 15, 2025**. Applicants who receive funding will be notified by May 15, 2025, and will receive a grant agreement form with additional information about funding requirements, deadlines, logo usage, and final reporting.

NOTE: Applicants may not apply for more than one America250KY grant during a single grant cycle. Applicants may not apply for additional funding for the same project during the same grant cycle.

America250KY 2025 Preservation Grant Timeline for Round 1

Deadline	Date
Application Deadline	April 15, 2025
Application Review by Panel	April 15 - May 15, 2025
Award Notification	May 15, 2025
Grant Agreement Form Due	June 1, 2025
Use of Grant Funds Must Conclude	August 7, 2026
Final Report Due	August 28, 2026

Amount of Funding

America250KY preservation grants will be awarded in two grant rounds, the first of which will conclude on April 15. While there is no one-to-one funding match required, applicants are encouraged to supplement grant funds. An applicant’s chances at receiving grant funds will NOT be affected by whether or not funds are matched.

How to Apply: Complete and return the required materials via email to craig.potts@ky.gov. Your application should reflect your project clearly, show a direct connection to the themes of America250KY, and explain how it directly and positively affects the growth, sustainability, and long-term impact of your organization and community.

Crediting the Kentucky Historical Society, the Kentucky Heritage Council and America250KY

Grant recipients must give credit to the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Heritage Council in all published materials, both print and electronic, that are a result of funds received from the America250KY preservation grant. Materials include published research, literature, exhibits, websites, advertisements and promotions, news releases, articles, printed programs, flyers, posters, catalogues, film/video, public broadcasts, and any other publicity materials. Appropriate logos and wording of credits will be provided in the grant agreement form upon receiving grant funds. It is important that the public be made aware of the use of tax dollars for America250KY projects.

For feedback, eligibility, or application related questions, please email craig.potts@ky.gov.

Applications must include the following required forms:

- Coversheet
- Project budget form
 - All outside consultants must provide a CV/resume
- Narrative
- Confirmation of 501(c)3 status (tax exempt determination letter required)
- Plan of work
- List of board members with mailing addresses, emails, and phone numbers. Governmental agencies should include the contact information of relevant officials with supervisory capacity over the institution.

America250KY Preservation Grant Coversheet

Project Title:

Project summary (100-150 words):

Name of Organization:

Address:

Project Director:

Project Director Email Address:

Project Director Phone Number:

Grant Request Amount:

Signature in ink:

Official of Organization:

Date:

America250KY Preservation Grant Budget

Item of Expense	Amount from Grant Funds	Cash Match (If any)	Total Amount
Contracting Fees			
Supplies and Equipment			
Materials			
Labor			
Professional fees (engineering, architectural, etc.)			
Promotion/Education			
Other			
TOTALS	Total from Grant Funds	Total from Cash Match	Total for Entire Project
	\$	\$	\$

America250KY Grant Narrative

Maximum 1,000 words.

Check all America250KY themes and objectives that apply to your project:

Themes:

Revolutionary Experiment

We the People

Power of Place

Crossroads in History

Doing History

Objectives:

Heritage Tourism

Education

Signature Events

Legacy Projects

While writing the project narrative, please answer the following:

- Give a brief summary of your project in 150 words (this is not included in the final word count)
- Explain how your project relates to the themes and objectives of America250KY you selected above.
- How will this project add to Kentucky history?
- In what way does your project impact local education or community engagement?
- How does your project impact local community members and their cultural institutions?
- Explain how your project makes your organization more sustainable.
- Describe your plan of work to successfully complete your project.
- If outside consultants are part of the project, how will their skills benefit your project?

Please attach all Supplemental Materials at the end of the application.