



## **Federal Grant Resource Guide for State, Territory, National, and Tribal Partners**

America250 is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the Semiquincentennial, or the 250th anniversary of our country. This three-year effort, from now through July 4, 2026, is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look to the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond. This resource guide is to inform the state, territory, national, and tribal partners about federal grants. Some grants focus on the preservation of public land, libraries, and museums, and others are specifically created to commemorate the country's Semiquincentennial in 2026.

This guide introduces partners to some federal agencies offering grants. This list is not exhaustive of all the resources available but is a starting point to understand the focus of the federal government dedicated to culture and preservation. Some federal agencies award grants to institutions or organizations. Some grants may be focused on tribal communities.

The dates for submission of applications vary with each federal entity, and for their grants, those submission dates also change. Many grant programs are subject to the availability of funds and thus suggest submitting applications earlier rather than later.

The grant application is a labor-intensive process and requires great preparation and attention to detail. Ensure enough time is set aside to complete the paperwork, collect the required documents, calculate the budget, proofread the submission, and, when possible, submit well in advance of the deadline. Additionally, grants require federal agency oversight, so ensure you are in compliance with all the grant requirements. As you apply for federal grants, it may be necessary for your organization to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and register at SAM.gov and Grants.gov.

In addition to agency-specific grant opportunities, USA.gov is another resource offering grants and loans to states and organizations. This site also provides tips and resources for preparation. For some grants, your organization will need to register in the System for Award Management (SAM).

*The deadlines vary within each agency. Also note, new grants are added throughout the year, including specific Semiquincentennial funding. Bookmark and routinely check the federal agencies' websites for new grant opportunities.*

Good luck with the application process!

## A sample of federal agency granting organizations and links to their grants

### **National Endowment for the Humanities:**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created in 1956 and is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the U.S. NEH grants typically go to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, and to individual scholars.

- Grants for organizations or individuals
- Types: Research and Development; Preservation and Access Education and Training; Digital Projects for the Public; Digital Humanities Advancement Grants; Fellowships Open Book Program; Humanities Collections and Reference Resources
- [Funding opportunities](#)
- [A More Perfect Union: America at 250 grants](#)

### **Department of Education:**

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

- Grants for nonprofit and for-profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions of higher education, such as colleges and universities
- [Funding opportunities](#)

### **National Park Service:**

The National Park Service (NPS) manages all national parks, most national monuments, and other natural, historical, and recreational properties. NPS preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

- Grants for states governments and local governments; Indian Tribes that meet the definition in 54 USC 300309 and Native Hawaiian Organizations that meet the definition in 54 USC 300314 ; non-profit organizations and institutions of higher education
- Types: Pre-preservation projects and preservation projects
- [Funding opportunities](#)
- [Save America's Treasures Grants](#)
- [Semiquincentennial Grants](#)

### **National Endowment for the Arts:**

The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts.

- Grants for organizations or individuals

- [Funding opportunities](#)

### **Library of Congress:**

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office.

- Grants for libraries, archives, museums, minority serving higher education institutions
- Types: Digitalization and diversity projects
- [Funding opportunities](#): Of the People: Widening the Path grants
- [Funding opportunities](#): Connecting Communities Digital Initiative grants

### **National Archives and Records Administration:**

The National Archives and Records Administration is an independent federal agency tasked with the preservation and documentation of government and historical records.

- Grants for nonprofit organizations or institutions; U.S. colleges, universities, and other academic institutions; State or local government agencies; and Federally-recognized or -acknowledged or state-recognized Native American tribes or groups
- Types: Collecting, preserving, and publishing documents, and archives; Grants -in-aid to assist researchers studying Presidential Library holdings
- [Funding opportunities](#)

### **Institute of Museum and Library Services:**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal agency that provides library grants, museum grants, policy development, and research.

- Types: Training and the professional development of library and archives professionals; museum operations and plan development; preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections; collections assessment
- Grants for states, libraries, museums, Native American/Native Hawaiian tribes, African American museums
- [Funding opportunities](#), especially the Inspire! Grants for Small Museums invites applications that commemorate America's 250th anniversary as part of the agency's IMLS250: All Stories, All People, All Places initiative

### **USA.gov**

The federal government awards grants and loans to organizations including states and local governments, universities, research labs, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and businesses. The intent of most grants is to fund projects that will benefit specific parts of the population or community as a whole.

- [Grants.gov](#)

### **SAM.gov**

Use this site to obtain a Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov), formerly known as the DUNS number. This 12-character alpha-numeric value will be the entity identification number for Federal awards government-wide.

- [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What are the main focus areas for the federal grants mentioned in the guide?

The federal grants in this resource guide focus on historic preservation, museum management, arts and culture, archival and digitization projects, education, community programming, and other areas.

2. Are these grants exclusively for organizations, or are there opportunities for individuals as well?

These grants are for organizations, state governments, tribal organizations, institutions of higher education, and other organizations.

3. Are the grants available on a recurring basis, or are there specific application windows throughout the year?

Each federal agency determines the grant frequency and application process. Please adhere to their instructions. Some are recurring, others are one-time only. You may apply for funding with each agency based on your focus and needs.

4. Are there any success stories or examples of past grant-funded projects that applicants could learn from?

Yes, this [link](#) will provide sample recipients of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities click here for some [past grant-funded programs](#) from the National Park Service's Semiquincentennial grant program.