



**State of Vermont**  
**Division for Historic Preservation**  
Deane C. Davis Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501  
[acd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation](http://acd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation)

*Agency of Commerce and  
Community Development*

Date: January 16, 2026

To: Certified Local Government Coordinators

From: Elizabeth Peebles, State Architectural Historian

## 2026 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Funds are Available for Historic Preservation Projects in Your Community!

### When are Applications Due?

Applications for 2026 CLG Grants are due Monday, March 16, 2026. The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will review the applications and award the grants at their meeting on April 23, 2026.

### Who Can Apply?

The twenty-one (21) Vermont communities participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program are eligible to apply for grant funding. Click [here](#) for a list of Vermont's CLG communities.

### How Much Money is Available?

We anticipate having approximately \$80,000.00 to award the eligible 2026 CLG Grant projects. The amount of funding available and the schedule are dependent on the Historic Preservation Funds apportioned to the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) for federal fiscal year 2026.

### How Do I Apply?

The 2026 Grant Application, Budget Form, and Manual are available on our website [here](#).

### When Does the Project Have to Start and be Completed?

The grant period for 2026 CLG Grant projects is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2028. This grant period follows the federal fiscal year. Grants may not start until Historic Preservation Funds are apportioned to SHPOs and grant agreements are finalized.

**All projects must be fully completed and submitted for final review and reimbursement no later than August 1, 2028. Delays in federal fund awards will likely NOT extend the final deadline; this is a decision of the National Park Service.**

### What are the 2026 CLG Funding Priorities?

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is encouraging projects that focus on disaster preparation, mitigation, and resilience. Such projects could include a survey to document historic resources in flood-prone areas; an educational project to develop local guidance for property owners about flood adaptation and mitigation; or a pre-development project to undertake disaster preparedness assessments for National Register-listed properties in your community.

### What are Eligible Projects?

All grant projects must include public information and education components about the purpose of the project and the value of historic preservation to the local community.

CLG Community may apply for multiple projects in the same year. A separate application form is required for each project. For example, a CLG Community can submit an application for a new Survey project and a second application for a Preservation Planning project.

This list is not comprehensive. If you have a project in mind that is not listed here, please email [elizabeth.peebles@vermont.gov](mailto:elizabeth.peebles@vermont.gov) or call 802-505-1147 to explore options.

### Priority I Projects

Priority I projects are eligible for 60% CLG grant funding with a 40% local match (cash and/or in-kind).

- ▶ SURVEY projects must conform to the suite of survey/inventory forms maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office. These include Vermont Architectural Resource Inventory, Vermont Archaeological Inventory, Vermont Bridge Inventory, Vermont Cultural Landscape Inventory, Vermont Cemetery Inventory, and Vermont Stone Culvert Inventory. Survey projects can focus on 100% survey in a specific geographic area or may focus on property types, historic themes, or time periods. For assistance in designing a survey project, the applicant can contact SHPO in advance of preparing the grant application.
- ▶ NATIONAL REGISTER projects should focus on individual properties, historic districts, or multiple property nominations. Prior to undertaking a nomination, the property or district must have been previously surveyed and determined eligible by SHPO within the past five (5) years for listing in the National

Register of Historic Places. Projects can result in new nominations or amendments to existing nominations to document changes or previously undocumented areas of significance. Please do not submit an application for a project including both survey and a nomination – this should be two separate and sequential applications.

- ▶ **PRESERVATION PLANNING** must be coordinated with the [Vermont Historic Preservation Plan](#), the statewide preservation planning process. The current plan was published in 2023 and is available online [here](#). The primary goals of the plan are 1) Advocate for Historic Preservation; 2) Recognize Historic Places; 3) Expand Public Outreach and Information Collaboration; and 4) Cultivate Pride of Place and Stewardship. The plan describes important themes in Vermont’s history and pre-history, the historic resources associated with them, and goals for their preservation. Through the survey and National Register process, and applying the information from the plan’s themes, a community can identify and evaluate its significant properties and establish goals and priorities for their continued use and protection. This information should be integrated into the community’s land planning documents and conservation efforts.
- ▶ **INFORMATION AND EDUCATION** projects inform the public about the value of historic preservation. Public information and education components are excellent ways to publicize the workings of the CLG Commission. For example, the CLG could sponsor programs, design and print brochures or facilitate an audio series about local historic resources. Special events in May for “National Historic Preservation Week” can be eligible for funding. Training sessions for CLG commission members and municipal staff working with the commission are eligible for funding. Contact SHPO for clarification on allowable costs.
- ▶ **PRE-DEVELOPMENT** projects plan for the work necessary to design and plan construction work. Architectural plans and specifications, historic structures reports, engineering studies, archaeological testing and feasibility studies are types of pre-development work. To be eligible to apply for a pre-Development grant, the project must be for a property, or properties, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Properties determined eligible by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are eligible but must be nominated prior to or as part of the pre-development project. The project must provide information necessary to carry out a development project that will meet the [Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#).

## Priority II Projects

Funding is awarded to Priority II projects only after all eligible Priority I projects have been funded and if there is still grant money available to award. Projects will be funded on a 50/50 matching basis, or up to 60% if CLG funds are available.

- ▶ DEVELOPMENT projects are actual bricks-and-mortar construction work. The project must be for stabilization or restoration work – new additions, code improvements, utility systems work, and routine maintenance are not eligible for funding. The project must meet the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#). To be eligible to apply for a CLG grant for a development project, the property must comply with the following:
  1. must be listed in the National Register;
  2. must be owned by the municipality;
  3. must be open to the public;
  4. must be accessible to people with disabilities; and
  5. must conform to local and regional plans.