



Certified Local Government Program

2024 CLG Grant Application

**FFY 2024 grant funding provided by the
National Park Service/Historic Preservation Fund**

Grant Period: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026

**Vermont Certified Local Government Program
2024 Grant Application Form**

Application Deadline: On or before 4:30 PM, Monday, December 11, 2023.

Application Format: All application materials should be submitted electronically via email.

What to Submit: All application materials must be submitted prior to the application deadline. A complete application consists of the following items, in the following electronic formats:

- A fully completed Application Form, signed by the applicant, the Chair of the CLG Commission, and the Chief Elected Local Official (or designee). Submit a scanned PDF of the complete application with all signatures.
- A fully completed Proposed Budget Form, signed by the Chief Elected Local Official (or designee). Submit the following:
 - a scanned PDF of the signed Proposed Budget Form, and
 - an MS Word version of the Proposed Budget Form.
- Any supporting materials, such as photographs, reports, assessments, etc. that support and inform the proposed project. Submit these materials as PDFs.

How to Submit the Application: Please submit all the above items as attachments to an email message, identified as follows:

Email Subject Line: *[Name of CLG Community] – 2024 CLG Grant Application*

Attachments: *[Name of CLG Community] – Application Form (PDF)*
[Name of CLG Community] – Proposed Budget Form (PDF & Word)
[Name of CLG Community] – Supporting Materials (PDF)

To complete this Grant Application, simply click in the gray text boxes and type your responses. Please keep your responses as concise as possible and specific to the proposed project.

**If you have any questions about the application process, please contact
Devin Colman at 802-585-8246 or devin.colman@vermont.gov.**

**Vermont Certified Local Government Program
2024 Grant Application Form**

Name of CLG Community: Rockingham

Name of CLG Coordinator: Walter Wallace

Telephone: 802-463-3964 ext. 1112

Mailing Address: POB 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Email: clg@rockbf.org

Name of Municipal Treasurer: Kathleen Neathawk

Telephone: 802-463-3964 x 1102

Email: clerk@rockbf.org

Project Name: Support, Interpretation, and Historic Stewardship

Will this project be administered by a designated third-party? Yes or No

If yes, name of organization: _____

Project Category: Please check the appropriate category below and provide the requested information as indicated or on a separate page.

Priority I Projects

Top priority in the selection of projects and award of grant funds is given to Priority I projects.

- Survey Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
- purpose of the project;
 - area to be surveyed (indicate on map);
 - estimated number of properties to be surveyed;
 - estimated number of acres to be surveyed;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey; and
 - plans for completion of survey.
- National Register Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
- purpose of the project;
 - building or historic district to be nominated (indicate on map);
 - property type or theme for Multiple Property nomination;
 - for a historic district, the number of contributing properties within the district;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey;
 - plans for completion of survey; and
 - status of survey through the National Register process.
- Preservation Planning Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
- purpose of the project;
 - area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey; and
 - status of survey through the National Register process.

- Information and Education Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - audience, methods and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.

- Pre-Development Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - property or area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - scope of work and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.

Priority II Projects

Awarded only if grant funds remain after all Priority I projects have been selected.

- Development Project.** *Please describe in Project Summary:*
 - purpose of the project;
 - property or area to be covered by the plan (describe and indicate on map);
 - scope of work and products;
 - status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey;
 - status of survey through the National Register process; and
 - status of historic preservation planning.
 - Please include a location map showing the footprint of the building, the parcel boundaries, and any areas of possible ground disturbance resulting from the project.

Project Summary (please address the bulleted items in the Project Category selected above):

The 2024 CLG grant will allow the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) to continue to fulfill its mission. First, to continue to advise the Town Selectboard, Town Manager, Development Director, and Planning Director on how best to integrate historic preservation into town policies and actions. Second, to promote historic preservation in the community by providing conservation and restoration technical support to owners of historic properties through workshops and consultations, and with attention paid to the historic narratives of our rural spaces, villages, hamlets, and neighborhoods through a speaker series and dedicated events such as our Old House Award program. Third, to support the stewardship and interpretation of historic districts and sites including the Rockingham Meeting House (RMH), a national historic landmark.

The CLG grant subvents costs for HPC administration, programming, and consultation. The HPC Coordinator works 12 hours per week and maintains an office at Rockingham Town Hall. Regular office hours are scheduled at the Town Hall as well as by appointment. The Coordinator administers the CLG grant, serves as staff for the HPC, organizes programs, provides preservation assistance to the Town and community, and liaises with Vermont state agencies

regarding activities such as Section 106 reviews and with the National Park Service as required. The Coordinator serves as conservator of the RMH, administering a cyclical operations and maintenance plan as well as special projects to ensure on-going conservation.

Adding to CLG administration the HPC will focus its attention on historic resource stewardship and interpretation during the 2024 CLG grant cycle. The Information and Education Project will continue community-based historic preservation activities with a speaker series as well as the Rockingham Old House Awards program.

Primary stewardship activities will focus on a major effort to preserve the Rockingham Meeting House (RMH), a National Historic Landmark.

Given the uncertainty of CDSR funding coupled with the unanticipated scope and cost of RMH conservation and restoration work identified by the consultants, the HPC is currently reassessing preservation strategy. This reassessment is the core stewardship activity anticipated for the next 12 – 18 months, with full attention of the HPC coordinator and commissioner.

Audience, methods and products

The project targets residents of Rockingham and its villages and hamlets, neighboring towns, and out-of-state visitors. A secondary audience is the selectboard, other town commissions and interested individual property owners. Uniquely, in 2024 the HPC will have an opportunity to present a local preservation project in front of a national audience. Public engagement will be systematically accomplished in the following ways:

Speakers Program

The annual speakers program consists of a 3-part series of public presentations and discussions addressing a range of historical and preservation issues relevant to Rockingham.

Historic Preservation Public Awareness

The HPC launched a public awareness campaign in the winter and spring 2022 to draw attention to historic buildings and landscapes in Rockingham. A well-received element of this effort is advertising via on-screen slides on movie nights at the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH). For approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of that evening's movie the gathering audience is exposed to a slide show advertising local businesses and non-profit organizations, including the HPC. The 2024 grant request includes support to continue the effort (basic slide currently in use is attached as a supporting document). To secure a discounted rate it is the intent to pay the advertising cost to cover the period January 2025 through September 2026.

Old House Awards Program

For 27 years the HPC has sponsored an annual Old House Award Program to honor those property owners in Rockingham who have worked hard and often at great expense to maintain the exterior historic character of their buildings, thereby preserving the historic landscapes of villages, hamlets, and the rural byways. To be eligible the building must be at least 50 years old, and all exterior restoration and conservation work must be completed at the time of nomination. Criteria include curb appeal, historic authenticity of material and design, National Registry status, and timeliness of restoration work. The HPC discretely references the Secretary of the Interior's historic preservation standards and guidelines as a touchstone in determining awards. Plaques are presented at a well-advertised and usually well-attended public award ceremony. This continues to be a major vehicle for public awareness of the importance of historic preservation in our community.

Vermont Downtown and Historic Preservation 2024 Conference

Bellows Falls Village and Rockingham Town have been chosen to host the June 2024 Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference. The HPC is actively working with the town Development Office, Bellows Falls Downtown Alliance, and other community-based groups in helping to organize the event.

Kchi Pontegok Project – NACP Forum 2024

The Kchi Pontegok Project is a partnership between the Abenaki Atowi Project and the Town of Rockingham working to reassess the traditional cultural landscape of what is referred to in Euro-American parlance as the Bellows Falls Petroglyphs, a series of rock carvings created by pre-contact Indigenous community. Receiving Vermont's first National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant, the project is updating the existing NRHP nomination. The HPC Coordinator is invited to be a speaker to present the project at a panel discussion "In Plain Sight: Documenting Underrepresented Communities" at the NACP Forum 2024 scheduled for July 31 – August 4, 2024 in Miami Beach, Florida.

The National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities Grant Program has been a pivotal tool in documenting untold stories in our existing National Register nominations and in identifying and listing new nominations for listing. This session brings together representatives from three grant awards including the Kchi Pontegok project. The panel will also include a consultant who has worked on one of the grant projects, and a representative of the National Park Service to discuss their representative projects. Discussion points include the impact of the projects for future research, and documentation, and offer field-tested advice for preparing projects for submittal to the Underrepresented Communities Grant program. Anticipated educational outcomes, participants will learn to work with new community partners, how to explore multi-disciplinary approaches, how to learn to view underrepresented communities with a regional lens, and how to prepare foundational work for a successful interface with the NPS and consultants.

Bellows Falls Downtown Historic Tour Brochure

The Bellows Falls Downtown NR Historic District guide was last published ca 1983 and for time out of mind no copies exist for public distribution. The HPC will create a new downtown guide from scratch, using information drawn from the existing NR nomination, new research, and new pictures. Unlike the earlier brochure this one will be printed in color.

For the 2022 CLG grant provides funding for printing of the brochure leveraged with a commitment from a Bellows Falls-based artist to donate graphic design expertise to design the brochure. This in-kind donation of services commitment was withdrawn due to circumstances beyond HPC control. To finish this project the HPC proposes using single source procurement consistent with 2 CFR § 200.320 and following protocols outlined in the Town of Rockingham and Bellows Falls Village Corporation Purchasing Policy and Procedures to contract with Bellows Falls graphic artist Mary Lynch to design and prepare artwork for the brochure.

Status of completion of town-wide or city-wide survey, and plans for completion of survey

There are four town/state historic districts and upwards of twenty town historic sites in Rockingham. These districts and sites were audited in 2021. Recommendations and information from that audit have been approved by the HPC in re-writing the Historic Resources chapter of the Rockingham Town Plan, setting historic preservation goals and objectives to amend existing and establish new districts or stand-alone sites. It is anticipated the Town Plan will be reviewed

by the Planning Commission for final submission to the select board in 2024. The HPC will actively respond to any requests for further review and fine-tuning of the Historic Resource chapter.

Status of survey through the National Register process

There are 11 NR historic districts established in Rockingham and 1 NR stand-alone site. These districts and nominations were audited in 2021. See comment above for NR action related to the Town Plan. The HPC is also monitoring the Kchi Pontegok Project, funded by the National Park Service Underrepresented Communities grant (NPS-URC). The project is reviewing the current Bellows Falls Multi-use NR Historic Site petroglyph contributing site element for update or re-nomination as a stand-alone NR site.

Status of historic preservation planning

Historic preservation planning is at the heart of on-going HPC work. The HPC works closely with the Rockingham select board in the stewardship of the RMH as well as with the Bellows Falls Historical Society in their curation of the 1831 Adams Grist Mill. During 2022 the HPC prepared a major revision of the Historic Resources chapter updating goals and objectives using recommendations from the 2021 Rockingham Historic District Survey funded through the 2020 CLG grant cycle and using historic resource maps developed during that survey. The Planning Commission is making final review for submission to the select board in early 2023, and HPC is prepared to fine-tune the Historic Resource chapter as may be required. The HPC is working with the select board to develop a long-term capital budget for RMH conservation to support an established cyclical maintenance plan (see Project Summary narrative above for further detail).

Under the auspices of the Rockingham Incremental Development Work Group, Bellows Falls Village is one of 5 Vermont communities piloting the study and implementation of infill development in residential neighborhoods. The goal is to create planning and development strategies to provide more affordable housing options in an under-resourced community. As most Bellows Falls neighborhoods are in NR historic districts there is a perceived need for infill design standards to maintain historic landscapes and viewsapes. In an effort to preserve the look and feel of historic districts the HPC is preparing design standards to advise the infill project as well as the town planning commission as zoning regulations evolve.

Please Answer the Following Questions:

1. How will the public be informed about the purpose of this project and the value of historic preservation? (note: public information and education is a required component of all CLG grant projects)

Through the proposed Historic Preservation Public Awareness Campaign and a variety of other activities: the Rockingham Old House Awards program, public presentations, press releases via local media outlets, on-screen public service announcements at the Bellows Falls Opera House, special programming on public access FACT-TV, WOOL 91.5 FM (Bellows Falls-based Pacifica Radio affiliate with a national reach), and on the town website. The commission continues to advocate for historic buildings in danger of demolition through neglect. The HPC works with the town Development Office on the feasibility of historically significant buildings repurposing and contributing to future community economic development.

2. Describe the impact that this project will have on historic resources. Will it be significant and long lasting?

The Rockingham CLG program contributes directly to a range of preservation activities in all of Rockingham's historic districts: Bellows Falls Downtown, Bellows Falls Neighborhood, Saxtons River, Parker Hill, and Old Rockingham Village. The Information and Education project will continue to facilitate the redevelopment of historic commercial and industrial structures and landscapes within the Bellows Falls Downtown and the Saxtons River NR historic districts which will benefit both existing businesses and attract more customers to the area through marketing of historic tourism. On-going support of homeowner efforts to preserve historic homes in the Bellows Falls Neighborhood and the Parker Hill NR historic districts as well as the Bartonsville and Cambridgeport state and town historic districts contributes to property values and marketability of residential real estate as well as contribute to historic tourism. Historic preservation SMART goals and objectives are enshrined in the Rockingham Town Plan and used to benchmark outcomes. The key activity for the next 12-18 months is preservation of the RMH.

3. Does this project focus on disaster preparation, mitigation, and resilience? If yes, please explain how.

Yes -or- No

If yes, please describe:

The historic preservation speaker series and the Old House Award program will focus on disaster preparation, mitigation, and resilience. The themes will also be interwoven in the Rockingham Meeting House Preservation Project to make sure restoration strategies address climate change impacts on the site ecosystem.

4. Describe the project schedule assuming starting date of **July 2024** and completion date of **August 1, 2026**. List dates for subcontracting with consultants, on-site meetings, delivery of draft products, such as survey and National Register forms, and public meetings, as applicable. All products, including a final project report and auditable financial documentation are due by the completion date.

DATE	Task/Product Completed
1/18/2024	DHP notifies applicants of grant awards
7/2024	Execute Grant Agreement with DHP
7/2024	Contract with Bellows Falls Opera House for Movie Night Information Slides
7/2024	NAPC Forum 2024 Participation
06-1-2024	Completed Bellows Falls Downtown Historic Tour Brochure
10/31/2024	Old House Awards Program 2024
12/1/2024	First Progress Report Due to DHP
12/2024 – 3/2025	Historic Preservation Speaker Series
4/1/2025	Second Progress Report Due to DHP
12/1/2025	Third Progress Report Due to DHP
4/1/2026	Fourth Progress Report Due to DHP
8/1/2026	Completion Date: Deadline to submit final project report, final product, and request reimbursement

- 5. Who will participate in the project and what will they do? Relate the personnel listed in the budget (CLG staff and commissioners, consultants, volunteers) to their role in completing the project.

Walter Wallace, HPC Coordinator, administers CLG grant and coordinates historic preservation activities and projects

Gary Fox, Development Director, supervises HPC Coordinator, coordinates historic preservation activities in relation to community development goals and objectives outlined in the town plan

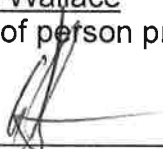
HPC Members, John Leppman, MD (Chair), Karen Jarett, Annette Spaulding, Elijah Zimmer, and Diana Jones. Oversees the Coordinator's activities, ensures grant criteria have been met, sets priorities for grant activities, selects consultants, and makes recommendations to the Rockingham Select Board for awarding of contracts pertaining to historic preservation activities.

Community Partnerships: Bellows Falls Historical Society; Saxtons River Historical Society; Rockingham Meeting House Association; Rockingham Free Public Library. Each group plays a vital role in CLG work by maintaining archives and artifact collections, sharing resources, supporting historical research, and providing venues and technical support for educational programs. The HPC will work with Destination Bellows Falls on historic preservation awareness.

- 6. What are the dates of the local government's fiscal year? July 1 to June 30
- 7. If applicable, what are the dates of the designated third-party administrator's fiscal year?
to _____ or not applicable

Signatures: After completing the application, print it out and have each of the three signatories sign and date this page. Then scan the complete application as a PDF and email it as an attachment along with the other required application materials.

THIS APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES ARE ENTERED BELOW:

<u>Walter Wallace</u>	<u>Coordinator, Historic Preservation Commission</u>
Name of person preparing this application	Title
	<u>12/11/2023</u>
Signature	Date

John Leppman

Name of CLG Commission Chair

Signature

John A. Leppman

Date

12/11/23

Scott Pickup

Name of Chief Elected Local Official (or Designee)

Signature

Scott Pickup

Municipal Manager
Title

Date

12/11/23

Name of CLG Community: Rockingham

Name of CLG Project: Support, Interpretation, and Historic Stewardship

Federal Share: \$22,455 + Local Share: \$14,970 (cash & in-kind match) = Total Project Amount: \$37,425

Note: the Federal Share cannot exceed 60% of the total project amount, and the Local Share must be at least 40% of the total project amount.

CASH EXPENDITURES 1 (expenses to be reimbursed by the grant)				
Salaried Employees	# Hours & Rate	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Name, Title</i>				
Walter Wallace, HPC coordinator	20 hours per week x 52 weeks @ \$25.00 p/h	\$26,000		
Gary Fox, Development Director	25 hours per year @ \$30.00	\$750		
Total Cash Expenditures for Salaried Employees		\$26,750		

CASH EXPENDITURES 2 (expenses to be reimbursed by the grant)				
Contracted Services	Description of Services	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				
Rockingham Entertainment Development, Ltd. o/b/o Bellows Falls Opera House	On movie nights (5x per week) provide on-screen slides advertising historic preservation activities sponsored by the HPC to support historic preservation awareness in the community as	\$2000		
Speakers Program	\$175 speaker's fee x 3 events	\$525		
Mary Lynch	Graphic designer for Bellows Falls Downtown Historic Tour brochure	\$5,000		
Total Cash Expenditures for Contracted Services		\$7,525		

CASH EXPENDITURES 3 (expenses to be reimbursed by the grant)				
Other Expenses	Description of Costs	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				

Old House Awards Program	Pays for plaques and reception for annual award winners, selected by the commission	\$500		
Historic New England Membership	Annual institutional membership. Commissioners and Town staff will be able to access professional development in CLG historic preservation work. Membership provides visibility to the Rockingham HPC through their website as well as access to technical preservation services.	\$150		
Travel Expenses	Panelist at NAPC Forum 2024, Kchi Pontegok Project presentation	\$2500		
Total Cash Expenditures for Operating Services		\$3150		

IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 1 (services to serve as match for the grant)

Donated Time	# Hours & Rate	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Name</i>				
Commissioners - HPC Monthly Meetings, committee work, and Professional Development / conference participation	150 hours @ \$30.04 per hour for five commissioners	\$4506		
Total In-Kind Expenditures for Donated Time		\$4506		

IN-KIND EXPENDITURES 2 (services to serve as match for the grant)

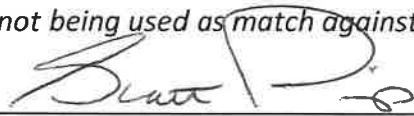
Donated Services	Description of Costs	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Vendor</i>				

Total Cash Expenditures for Donated Services			
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LOCAL CASH MATCH (cash to serve as match for the grant)				
Cash Match	Description of Match	Proposed	Actual	Variance
<i>Source</i>				
Town of Rockingham	Town funds	\$10,464		

	Proposed	Actual	Variance
Total of All Cash & In-Kind Expenditures	\$14,970		

Certification: *I certify that the matching share proposed for this project does not include funding from other Federal sources, and that these funds are not being used as match against any other Federal grant application.*



Chief Elected Local Official or Designee

12/11/23


Date

Rockingham 2023 CLG Grant Proposal

Supporting Materials

1. Bellows Falls Opera House Historic Preservation On-screen slide
2. “In Plain Sight: Documenting Underrepresented Communities” Session Proposal – National Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions Forum 2024, West Palm Beach, FL, July 31 – August 4, 2024

Bellows Falls Opera House Historic Preservation On-screen slide



#SavingPlaces

PRESERVATION IS NOT ABOUT THE PAST
- IT IS ABOUT THE FUTURE

Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission

A National Park Service Certified Local Government funded in part by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation rockbf.org/historic-preservation-commission clg@RockBF.org

**“In Plain Sight: Documenting Underrepresented Communities” Session
Proposal – National Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions
Forum 2024, West Palm Beach, FL, July 31 – August 4, 2024**

In Plain Sight: Documenting Underrepresented Communities

Organizer:

Caroline T. Swope, M.S.H.P., Ph.D.
City of Decatur
Historic Preservation Specialist
P.O. Box, 488
Decatur, AL 35602
256-476-7520
cswope@decatur-al.gov

Format:

Panel discussion

Session Organizer:

Caroline T. Swope
City of Decatur Historic Preservation Specialist

- Speaker 1: Caroline T. Swope
cswope@decatur-al.gov
Historic Preservation Specialist, City of Decatur, AL
- Speaker 2: Deqah Hussein-Wetzel
deqah@urbanistmedia.org
Urbanist Media, Executive Director
- Speaker 3: Amanda J. DeCort
amanda_decort@nps.gov
Grants Management Specialist, National Park Service
- Speaker 4: Walter Wallace
clg@rockbf.org

Historic Preservation Commission Coordinator, Town of Rockingham,
Vermont

Speaker 5: Daina Penkiunas

daina.penkiunas@wisconsinhistory.org

SHPO, Wisconsin Historical Society

Caroline T. Swope has served as the Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Decatur, Alabama since late 2019. Prior to that she worked as a preservation consultant and an instructor at the university level. She has served on preservation commissions, helped organize a preservation non-profit, and has worked on preservation outreach projects in several municipalities.

Deqah Hussein-Wetzel

Urbanist Media, Executive Director

Deqah Hussein-Wetzel is a Somali-American historic preservationist and co-founder/Executive Director of Urbanist Media, which dives deep into little-known stories of urban history, focusing on people of color and women.

Amanda J. DeCort

Grants Management Specialist

State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants, National Park Service

Amanda J. DeCort is a Grants management Specialist for the National Park Service in the State, Tribal, Local, Plans and Grants Division. She is the Program Lead for the Underrepresented Communities Grants program as part of her duties. Past positions include serving as the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Tulsa and the Executive Director of Tulsa Foundation for Architecture.

Walter Wallace

Historic Preservation Commission Coordinator

Town of Rockingham, Vermont

Walter Wallace is the Historic Preservation Commission Coordinator for the town of Rockingham, Vermont and a researcher with expertise on community economic and cultural impacts from economic and political disruption. He has been overseeing an Underrepresented Communities Grant in collaboration with the Elnu Abenaki tribe for Bellow Falls, Vermont, with an emphasis on the larger cultural landscape that has been documented.

Daina Penkiunas

SHPO, Wisconsin Historical Society

Daina Penkiunas is the State Historic Preservation Officer for the state of Wisconsin. She served as the National Register Coordinator for the SHPO and then served as Deputy SHPO before stepping into her current position.

Session Description:

The National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities Grant Program has been a pivotal tool in documenting untold stories in our existing National Register nominations and in identifying and listing new nominations for listing. This session brings together representatives from three grant awards - a consultant who worked on one of the grant projects, and a representative of the National Park Service - to discuss their representative projects. Discussion points include the impact of the projects for future research, and documentation, and offer field-tested advice for preparing projects for submittal to the Underrepresented Communities Grant program.

Educational outcomes:

(will learn to) work with new community partners

(will learn to) explore multi-disciplinary approaches

(will learn to) view underrepresented communities with a regional lens

(will learn to) prepare foundational work for a successful interface with the NPS and consultants