



## 2020 African American Civil Rights History Grant – Fact Sheet

### Grant Due Date: January 12, 2021

### African American Civil Rights (AACR) History Grants

The National Park Service's (NPS) FY 2020 African American Civil Rights Grant Program (AACR) seeks to document, interpret, and preserve the sites related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century. The NPS 2008 report, "Civil Rights in America, A Framework for Identifying Significant Sites," will serve as the reference document in determining the appropriateness of proposed projects and properties. AACR Grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), administered by the NPS. **Grants will fund a broad range of planning and research projects for historic sites including: survey, inventory, documentation, interpretation, and education.** Grants are awarded through a competitive process and do not require non-Federal match.

- History grant projects must range from \$15,000 to \$50,000.
- Eligible costs include survey, planning, and documentation of historic sites/events, as well as the creation of interpretive and educational materials around significant sites (including oral histories).
- Projects must be associated with the African American civil rights movement of the 20th century.

**Successful applications will emphasize innovative strategies, and creative projects with measurable results, and include cross-generational engagement that promote and preserve the community's civil rights resources.** Projects should involve public-private partnerships and serve as models to communities nationwide. Projects must fit one of the categories listed below. If a project overlaps more than one category, candidates will need to select the dominant category:

#### 3 Project Categories:

1. Survey and Planning
2. Research and Documentation
3. Interpretation and Education

### Rep. Sewell's Fight for Funding

In 2015, the Civil Rights Preservation Grants program budget was almost zeroed out, having suffered from years of draconian cuts. Rep. Sewell has fought every year to save the program and increase funding for Civil Rights Preservation Grants in the Interior Appropriations bill. After passing many successful amendments and working across the aisle over the past five years, our office has steadily increased funding for this program. In FY2020, our office was proud to secure \$15,500,000 to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement.

### Evaluation Criteria

Project descriptions must address, and applications will be rated on, each of the criteria listed below. NPS will evaluate and consider only complete applications that separately address each of the **five criteria**. You are required to provide a detailed narrative of these elements using the project information form.

**1. Significance:** Describe the historic resource(s) in the proposed project and the role they played in the African American Civil Rights movement in the 20th Century. Include the significance in the story of Civil Rights, and designations at the National, State, Tribal, or local level. Integrity of the resource should also be discussed. Discuss how your project will help tell an untold story, identify places, and share the story of African American Civil Rights. Applicants must include concurrence of eligibility from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), such as a determination of eligibility from the SHPO or a completed survey that was reviewed by the SHPO. **(Weight 20%)**

**2. Need/Urgency/Threat:** Describe the need, urgency, and threat the project addresses and how the activities are necessary to achieve the project objectives **(Weight 20%)**

**3. Feasibility:** List and describe all tasks and their results. Discuss your timeline (located below) and budget justification (separate document) to show that costs are necessary, reasonable, and allowable. Demonstrate how



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you will successfully complete the project within the given timeframe (2-3 years) and with the given resources while meeting all federal requirement and guidelines. Briefly describe who will be involved in carrying out the project and their qualifications, attach resumes/CVs as applicable. **(Weight 20%)**

**4. Sustainability:** Describe the impacts of the project after completion, including long lasting effects. Describe the public-private partnerships and community engagement involved in the project and how these partnerships will sustain and continue to support the resource(s) after the grant project is complete. **(Weight 20%)**

**5. Department of the Interior Priorities:** Please discuss how your project supports the following Department of the Interior (DOI) priorities:

- Modernizing our infrastructure: Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs;
- Restoring trust with local communities: Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities. **(Weight 20%)**

### Evaluation and Selection Process

Reviewers' evaluations are based solely on the material provided in the application. Additional materials not specifically required by the application, and materials sent separately from the application, will not be considered.

NPS personnel, and in some cases, other Federal reviewers, will review all the proposals. All proposals for funding will be considered using the criteria outlined above. A summary of the review panel comments may be provided to the applicant if requested.

Each of the 5 criteria elements will be scored on a scale of 0 to 20 with a top possible score of 100.

- **20:** Superior
- **16 – 19:** Good
- **12 – 15:** Satisfactory
- **8 – 11:** Marginal
- **4 – 7:** Poor
- **0 – 3:** Not acceptable

The average score of a successful grant application for FY 2019 was a 24.25 for each criteria or a 97 average overall score. The scoring of each criteria is based on the strengths and weaknesses of the application narrative.

### Previous Awards

The projects below were announced on April 8, 2020. These are examples of grantees and projects in Alabama that were awarded in FY2020:

- **Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church/Legacy Foundation Inc., Selma - \$37,000**  
Oral Histories: Selma's Voting Rights Women Foot Soldiers
- **Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery**  
Freedom Rides Museum Exhibit Fabrication - \$50,000  
Alabama Civil Rights Multiple Property Nomination - \$50,000
- **Stillman College, Tuscaloosa - \$50,000**  
Preservation Planning for Sheppard Library

### Important Dates

In order to apply, all applicants must have an up-to-date SAMS and DUNS number and will need to have their applications submitted on grants.gov in order to be considered.

- **Posted: November 9, 2020**
- **Due: January 12, 2021, must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM, ET**

### Additional Information

For more information about the FY 2020 African American Civil Rights History Grant, go to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=329743>

**For questions about the grant or to request a letter of support, please contact Yolanda Clayton, Grants Coordinator, at 205.254.1960 or [yolanda.clayton@mail.house.gov](mailto:yolanda.clayton@mail.house.gov)**