



LANDMARK  
SOCIETY

## Funding Resources for Historic Preservation Projects

One of the most common questions we hear at The Landmark Society is “How can I get a grant to rehabilitate a historic building?” There are several programs that can assist municipalities, nonprofit entities, and congregations with some of the costs of historically appropriate rehabilitation projects. We advise homeowners and other private building owners to check with their municipality to see if any local programs, such as emergency repair funds, low-interest loans, or programs to assist first-time homeowners, are applicable to their situation.

Most historic preservation grants require that the property be listed or eligible for listing in the State and/or National Register of Historic Places, or designated a landmark under a local preservation ordinance at the time of application. For state or national programs, contact the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (<http://www.nysparks.com/shpo/register/>); for local designation, contact your municipal clerk or historic preservation commission.

***The following grant programs provide funds for historic preservation:***

1. The **Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP)**, a federal reimbursement program administered by the New York Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), enables funding for transportation projects of cultural, aesthetic, historic and environmental significance. Eligible projects must have a relationship with the surface transportation system and must be available for public access and use. Project applications may be developed by any municipality or nonprofit organization, but must be sponsored by a municipality, a state agency, or an Authority. For more information: <https://www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/programs/tep> or (585) 272-3466.
2. The **NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** provides grants for projects to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties on the State or National Register for use by all segments of the population for park, recreation, conservation or preservation purposes. This highly competitive program provides grants of up to 50% of eligible project costs, with funding caps, deadlines and priorities established each year. For more information: <http://www.nysparks.com/grants/programs/historic.asp> or (518) 237-8643.
3. The **Certified Local Government Program (CLG)** supports and strengthens local preservation activities by encouraging communities to develop an action plan in order to achieve their preservation goals. All certified CLGs are eligible to receive a variety of services from the SHPO, including grant money designated exclusively for CLG projects. To find out more about these annual awards or to request application information, see [http://www.nysparks.com/shpo/certified/certified\\_local.htm](http://www.nysparks.com/shpo/certified/certified_local.htm) or call (518) 237-8643.
4. **Preserve New York**, a grant program of the Preservation League of New York State and the New York State Council on the Arts, provides support for three types of projects: cultural resource surveys, historic structure reports, and historic landscape reports. An applicant must be a not-for-profit group with tax-exempt status or a unit of local government. State agencies and religious institutions are not eligible to apply. The program generally provides only partial support on a competitive basis. Grants are likely to range between \$3,000 and \$10,000. For more information: <http://www.preservenys.org/funding.htm> or (518) 462-5658.
5. The **Sacred Sites Program**, administered by the New York Landmarks Conservancy in New York City, provides financial and technical assistance for the maintenance, repair, and restoration of religious properties of all denominations across the state. This program will fund professional fees as well as restoration work, with

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essential projects receiving the highest priority. Funding is available in amounts up to \$100,000. For more information: <http://www.nylandmarks.org> or (212) 995-5260.

6. The **Community Foundation** administers two funds pertaining to historic preservation: the Lloyd E. Klos Fund and the Elizabeth Gibson Holahan Fund for Historic Preservation. Nonprofit 501(c) (3) organizations or government entities in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, and Wayne counties may apply for these funds, which typically award between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for projects that "focus on preservation, education, and/or information efforts on unique historical assets of Rochester and the region." For more information: [www.racf.org](http://www.racf.org) or (585) 271-4271.

7. The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** administers the following funds and programs. For more information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/> or (617) 523-0885.

a. The National Trust Preservation Fund includes: 1) matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts, and 2) intervention funds for preservation emergencies. Matching grant funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as to provide preservation education activities to educate the public.

b. The Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for projects that contribute to the preservation or the recapture of an authentic sense of place. Funds may be used for professional advice, conferences, workshops and education programs.

c. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Funds may be used for professional expertise, print and video communications materials, and education programs.

d. The National Trust Loan Fund offers predevelopment, acquisition, mini-permanent, bridge and rehabilitation loans for residential, commercial and public use projects. Eligible borrowers include not-for-profit organizations, revitalization organizations or developers working in certified Main Street communities, local, state or regional governments, and for-profit developers of historic buildings.

8. The **NY Main Street Grant Program** provides funds to business improvement districts and other not-for-profit organizations that are committed to revitalizing historic downtowns, mixed-use neighborhood commercial districts, and village centers; it funds building renovations, façade and streetscape improvements and, in limited cases, capital funding for projects intended to anchor downtown districts. The program also provides technical assistance and other resources to support community revitalization efforts. For more information: <http://www.nymainstreet.org/> or 1-866-275-3427.

9. The **Architecture, Planning and Design** program of the New York State Council on the Arts stimulates and promotes excellence in design and planning in the public realm for the benefit of all New Yorkers. The Program supports work in the fields of contemporary and restoration architecture, landscape architecture, urban and rural planning, urban design, historic preservation, graphic and industrial design, and architectural theory and history. For more information: <http://www.nysca.org/public/guidelines/architecture/index.htm> or (212) 741-7013.

10. **State and Federal Tax Credits.** The federal government provides a 20% tax credit for rehabilitating income-producing historic buildings, and a 10% tax credit for the rehabilitation of unregistered commercial, nonresidential buildings constructed before 1936. State tax credits are available for the rehabilitation of commercial properties or of owner-occupied housing in certain distressed neighborhoods. For more information: <http://www.nysparks.com/shpo/investment/> or (518) 237-8643.

11. **NYS Legislature (Member Items).** Requests should be sent to the State Senator and/or the Member of Assembly representing the district in which the project is located. Application is required.