



FY2023 Partnership Grant Program Guidelines

Introduction:

Designed to provide strategic investments in the cultural, natural, and historical resources that enhance the sense of place within the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, the Freedom's Way Partnership Grant Program serves as a catalyst for new, creative programs and projects within the 45 communities of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

Reimbursable matching grants are offered in support of the goals and objectives outlined in the Management Plan, approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 2015. These include:

- to inspire generations of lifelong learners through innovative educational and interpretive initiatives that connect stories – past and present – to residents and national and international visitors
- to foster a culture of stewardship to preserve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area as a legacy for future generations,
- to promote sustainable communities throughout the Heritage Area that reinforce its character and sense of place
- to engage and collaborate with organizations, interests, and individuals to create a shared regional vision as a living link across landscapes, history, and time.

The Management Plan is available for download at <https://freedomsway.org/organizational-statements>.

Available Funding:

A total of \$50,000 has been allocated for this funding cycle and will be awarded on a rolling basis beginning on October 1, 2022.

2023 Funding Priorities:

The Freedom's Way Partnership Grant Program prioritizes programs and projects that:

- Facilitate meaningful interpretive experiences that engage diverse audiences and support an inclusive and comprehensive narrative of the region's history, including that of Indigenous peoples, women, people of color, and other under-represented communities

- Eliminate barriers, promote access, and cultivate connections to the many benefits of spending time outside, in cultural or historical places or to promote understanding of the natural world
- Cultivate a shared stewardship agenda for the Heritage Area through historic preservation, conservation and curation initiatives that enhance and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the region for current and future generations.

Of particular interest in the 2023 funding cycle are programs and projects that:

- Research, interpret, and preserve the Heritage Area's underrepresented themes and stories
- Deepen a site's connection to the community and region, and
- Reach new and/or underserved audiences.

About Freedom's Way:

The Freedom's Way National Heritage Area (Freedom's Way) was designated by Congress and the President on March 30, 2009, to preserve the special historic identity of 45 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and to manage, preserve, protect, and interpret their cultural, historic, and natural resources for the educational and inspirational benefit of future generations.

As a partnership endeavor, Freedom's Way serves as facilitator, host, and guide for heritage area-wide presentations, activities, and initiatives that recognize and preserve the unique identity of the region. One of only fifty-five National Heritage Areas in the United States, we tell a distinctly American story unique to Freedom's Way and inclusive of the multiple perspectives of those who live and work here.

Communication and collaboration are central to our mission. In 2022, we launched a new brand identity and fully interactive website that serves as an online museum of the Heritage Area. Designed to curate the region, the site includes an accessible and engaging interactive guide, an online archive, and a robust mapping feature. A dedicated mobile app allows users to create custom itineraries and a crowd-sourced community events calendar is integrated within a search function.

To learn more about Freedom's Way, including our programs and story-telling initiatives, visit: <http://www.freedomsway.org/>

Getting Started:

We invite you to send us an email to set up a time to discuss the development of your proposal prior to preparing and submitting an application. Applications will be accepted

and awarded on a rolling basis **beginning October 1st, 2022**, until obligated funds have been committed.

For more information or questions regarding the application process, please contact us at grants@freedomsway.org.

Grant Categories:

Proposals must fit into one of the following categories to be considered eligible:

Inclusive Storytelling

Grant award up to \$2,500

Projects that document, interpret and share the stories of the region with an emphasis on those who have been excluded from the historical narrative.

Inclusive storytelling grants will support research, documentation, and interpretation of these stories as well as the creation of interpretive products, such as waysides, web content, videos and exhibits, oral histories, podcasts, blogs, and the development of programs that share these stories with the community.

Community Planning for Resource Conservation

Grant award up to \$2,500

Projects that plan for and/or promote historic preservation or natural resource and agricultural conservation to preserve or enhance the historical structures, landscapes and cultural resources of the Heritage Area.

Examples include, but are not limited to, preservation planning studies (historical resource inventories, historic structure reports and assessments, paint analysis, historical landscape reports and assessments), collection documentation and preservation, planning and feasibility studies and visitor surveys and analysis.

Education, Interpretation & Curation

Grant award up to \$2,500

Projects that increase awareness and understanding of the region's heritage by engaging residents and visitors through experiences.

Education projects are available to fund classroom or community projects that promote students' understanding and appreciation of the Heritage Area's natural, historical, or cultural resources.

Interpretation projects include, but are not limited to, walking tours, exhibitions, workshops, guidebooks, recording oral histories and the development of online navigation and apps and other tools that help people understand the history and stories of the Heritage Area.

Historic Preservation

Grant award up to \$5,000

Projects that preserve, rehabilitate, or restore historically or culturally significant buildings or sites within the Heritage Area. The building or site must either be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (individually or as part of a district) or must be eligible for and actively seeking listing.

Grant funds can also be used for the implementation of historic structure reports, preservation plans, feasibility studies, or other planning documents that encourage the rehabilitation, restoration, or preservation of a structure. Preservation plans and feasibility studies can be undertaken for buildings or sites that are determining and/or seeking eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places.

All preservation projects should consult the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, available at <https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>.

Special Events

Grant award up to \$1,000

Events within the Heritage Area that are free and open to the public including, but not limited to, lectures, festivals, performances, art exhibits and reenactments.

Strategic Partnership Grants: Revolutionary Stories: The Enduring Legacies of the American Revolution in the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area:

Grant award up to \$2,500

In preparation for the 250th anniversary commemoration of the American Revolution, Freedom's Way National Heritage Area with support from the Massachusetts Society of the

Cincinnati and in partnership with the National Park Service and local communities, is undertaking an initiative to gather, record, interpret and share both well-known and underrepresented stories about the people, places, events and objects that relate to the period before, after and during the American Revolution in the region.

Designed to raise awareness of the diverse perspectives and experiences of those who lived within the 45 communities that now comprise the Heritage Area during this complex period of history, this multi-year initiative will create an online, publicly accessible repository of stories that can be used by communities to develop programming, projects and itineraries to engage new audiences in the story of the American Revolution and its enduring impacts on the social and cultural fabric of our nation.

To facilitate communities in completing this work, discrete funding has been allocated for Revolutionary Stories which is offered independently from the partnership grant program. Applying for Revolutionary Stories project funding DOES NOT PRECLUDE an organization from receiving partnership grant funds for other projects or programs.

In 2023 Revolutionary Stories grant funding will support research, documentation, and preliminary interpretation of stories that will lay the foundation for future programs and projects. For additional information, visit the Revolutionary Stories page on our website: <https://freedomsway.org/revolutionary-stories/>.

Eligibility & Requirements:

Only ONE application per entity may be submitted for partnership grants. For units of government and organizations with multiple sites, more than one application will be considered; however, it is a goal of the program to fund a range of projects diverse in scope and applicants. Coordination of applications from units of government and organizations with multiple sites is encouraged.

Eligible applicants include:

- non-profit organizations with current 501(c)3 status
- state or local governments
- public academic institutions

Eligible applicants and projects must also meet the following requirements:

- have the legal capacity and authority to incur obligations involved under the grant program,
- be located within the geographic boundaries of the 45 communities within the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area (please consult the map in the application),

- be matched, at a minimum, two-to-one by non-federal sources. The match may come from cash support or from documented in-kind support, such as staff or volunteer time and goods or services. **See below for more information on matching funds.**
- comply with all applicable federal regulations and guidelines (projects are funded with funds received from the National Park Service),
- submit a final report and related documentation at the conclusion of the project.

Please note that all approved applicants must sign an agreement with the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc. indicating their acceptance of grant terms, including the current ability to meet the match requirement, and their understanding of the reporting process.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- for-profit enterprises, religious organizations, and private individuals,
- organizational operating costs (including staff salaries or consultants functioning as staff) or to fund ongoing, annual programming,
- established/annual/core projects and programs. Expansion of an existing program to serve a new audience and/or explore new content may constitute a new activity and be eligible.
- purchase of an interest in real property,
- capital expenditures,
- religious ceremonies or events advancing or inhibiting a particular religious ideology, alcohol, fundraising, advocacy, or travel.

Matching Requirements:

The Freedom's Way Partnership Grant Program awards matching grants of federal funds on a reimbursable basis. Grant recipients must match all grant monies awarded on, at a minimum, a **TWO-TO-ONE** basis, with cash funds and/or documented in-kind contributions of labor (staff and volunteers), goods or services that are necessary for project fulfillment.

It is encouraged, but not required, to have matching funds in hand, or firmly committed to at the time of the application. Projects with the capacity to provide an overmatch are encouraged.

Match Funding must:

- be verifiable from your records,
- be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient completion of the project,
- be applied to the project AFTER the date the agreement is signed by the grant recipient.

Match Funding must not:

- be included as direct contributions from any other federally assisted program,
- be paid by the federal government under another award,
- include operating costs of the organization and routine repair and facility costs.

Timeline:

August 2022 – Freedom's Way 2023 Partnership Grant Program announced.

October 1, 2022 — Online application submission form opens.

August 31, 2023 – Preferred date for project completion and submission of Final Report and related documentation; however, individual project timelines will be negotiated with grant recipients and incorporated into agreement.

October 2023 – Grant recipients and projects presented at Freedom's Way Annual Meeting.

Application Process:

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact Freedom's Way to discuss proposed projects prior to preparing and submitting an application. Applications may be submitted online at: <https://freedomsway.org/grants> or via post to:

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area
94 Jackson Road, Suite 311, Devens, MA 01434

Selection Process & Criteria:

Unlike traditional competitive grant programs, it is our intent to work with applicants to develop proposals that meet their needs, build organizational capacity and are transformative, while supporting the goals and objectives of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area's Management Plan. While proposals will be reviewed on their own merit, the following criteria will be considered. We encourage you to call and discuss your proposal before applying.

- **Connectivity to the Goals and Objectives of the National Heritage Area:** Does the program or project advance the mission of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area?
- **Engaging New Audiences/Telling New Stories:** Is the program or project designed to reach audiences that have not traditionally been engaged in the work of the Heritage Area and share stories that have not been told?

- **Collaboration:** Does the program or project involve volunteers, and other partners to achieve its deliverables and demonstrate community engagement?
- **Clarity:** Are the project's objectives clearly identified?
- **Readiness:** Can the goals and objectives of the project be realized within a reasonable timeframe? Is the applicant ready to proceed?

Grant Agreement:

Approved grant applicants are required to execute an agreement with the Freedom's Way Heritage Association indicating an understanding and acceptance of these guidelines and all applicable federal regulations.

While our goal is to have as many FY2023 projects as possible completed by August 31, 2023, individual agreements that include a reasonable project timeline will be negotiated with each grant recipient. While we hope this will eliminate the need for project extensions, we will consider one extension request in extenuating circumstances. Requests must be made in writing and will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Grant Acknowledgement:

Applicants agree to acknowledge the funding of the project in all printed publications or press releases related to the project. Projects with a physical location will display a sign acknowledging the funding source and agree to display the appropriate Freedom's Way logo.

Logo files are available to download at this location:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mhcyh13mq23jg63/AAC_P6xiqZDGAF5AxpP0srIUa?dl=0

Final Report & Reimbursement:

A single, one-time reimbursement payment will be made to the grant recipient upon Freedom's Way receipt and approval of all deliverables, project completion reports, and required financial documentation.

Please direct questions to grants@freedomsway.org.