

2026 Partnership Grant Program

Community Outreach
Presentation



Freedom's
Way NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA



Freedom's Way NHA

- One of 60+ National Heritage Areas in US
- Serves 45 towns and cities in MA + NH
- Works in partnership with NPS + local communities to protect and promote the region's natural, cultural, and historical resources

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grants@freedomsway.org



Partnership Grant Program

- Provides strategic investments in the resources that enhance the region's sense of place
- Catalyst for new, creative projects and programs
- Collaborative process—not competitive!

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Program Genesis

The Association will:

- *Provide support and technical assistance for stewardship in heritage area towns through a small grants program*
- *Support the missions and programming of existing interpretive attractions*

— FWNHA 2015 Management Plan

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2026 Funding Cycle

- \$75k allocated; grants up to \$3,500
- Apply online October 1, 2025 – April 15, 2026
- Reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis
- Projects to be completed by September 1st, 2026

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2026 Funding Priorities

- Serve as a **catalyst** for interpretive sites within the region to develop **new, creative** projects & programs that showcase **lesser-known** stories & collections in their care.



2026 Funding Priorities

- Facilitate meaningful **interpretive experiences** that engage **diverse audiences** and support a **comprehensive** narrative of the region's history.



2026 Funding Priorities

- Cultivate a shared stewardship agenda for the Heritage Area through initiatives and programs that **interpret, enhance,** and **preserve** the natural and cultural resources of the region for **current and future generations.**

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2026 Funding Priorities

- Support **research, documentation** and **preliminary interpretation** of stories that will lay the foundation for future programs and projects.



2026 Funding Priorities

- Enhance **collective memory, memorialization, civic and social engagement** and **discourse**.



2026 Funding Priorities

- In 2026, every effort will be made to provide funding for projects to organizations and communities through the Heritage Area that have not participated in the Partnership Grant Program in the past.

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2026 Funding Opportunities

- Storytelling
- Education, Interpretation & Curation
- Community Planning & Resource Conservation
- Historic Preservation
- Regional Cultural Events
- Freedom's Way 250

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Storytelling



Arlington Historical Society



Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire



Education, Interpretation & Curation



Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust



Community Planning & Resource Conservation



Hudson Cultural Alliance



Lexington Historical Society



Historic Preservation



The Shirley Meeting House



Mason Town Hall Renovation Committee



Regional Cultural Events



Friends of Pine Hawk



Nashua International Sculpture Symposium



Freedom's Way 250



Concord Museum



Westford Historical Society & Museum



Measuring Our Impact

Since the program's inception:

- 151 grants awarded totaling \$381k+
- Direct investments in 2/3 of the Heritage Area's 45 communities
- Generated \$4.3+ million in match
- Leveraged NPS funding 13:1

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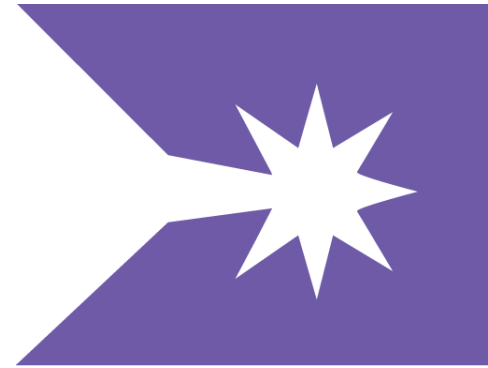
A Partnership Endeavor

- Grantees acknowledged in collateral & on social media platforms
- Projects shared with National Park Service and Freedom's Way NHA communities
- Thank you for advancing the mission and vision of the Freedom's Way NHA!

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Prior to Applying

2026 Partnership
Grant Program





Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)3 non-profits*
- Municipalities + state agencies
- Public academic institutions

**Community groups without 501(c)3 status may apply if sponsored by a fiscal agent.*

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Eligible Projects

- Align with grant program goals and a 2026 funding opportunity
- Impact at least one FW community
- Demonstrate ability to match grant request at a minimum 2:1
- Anticipate being complete by September 1st, 2026

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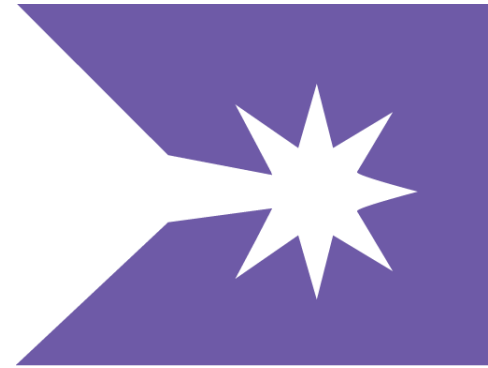
Reach Out to Us!

- Review program guidelines and application materials at freedomsway.org/grants
- Email grants@freedomsway.org to briefly introduce your project and schedule a call to discuss
- This is a collaborative—**not competitive**—process!

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Preparing a Proposal

2026 Partnership
Grant Program





Reminders

Freedom's Way Partnership Grants are:

- **Reimbursable** – Keep documentation!
- **Matching** – A minimum 2:1, any combination of cash and in-kind
- **Federal funds** – Adhere to all applicable regulations



Online Submission Form

- Preview now available on website
- Form opens October 1st
- Save & Continue option
- Any questions or technical issues, **please reach out!**

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Preliminary Budget Template

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	2026 Partnership Grant Program — Preliminary Project Budget						
2							
3	Applicant:	ABC Historical Society, Inc.					
4	Project Title:	A Collection of the Town of ABC's Lesser-Known Stories					
5	Funding Opportunity:	Storytelling					
6	Funding Request:	\$3,500					
7				Third-Party Matching Funds (2:1 minimum)			
8				Cash	In-Kind		
9				(Applicant Pays)	(Donated to Project)		
10	Category & Description	Estimate Calculation	Funding Request to be Reimbursed			Total Project Cost	
11							
12	Professional Services						
13	Consulting Project Manager	\$50 x 8 hr x 20 wk = \$8,000	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	
14	Graphic Designer	\$75 x 20 hr = \$1,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
15	Research Intern	\$15 x 10 hr x 12 wk = \$1,800	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	
16						\$ -	
17						\$ -	
18							
19	Materials & Supplies						
20	Ancestry.com Subscription	\$20 x 6 mos = \$120	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ 120.00	
21	Printing & Reproduction	\$10 x 100 qty = \$1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
22						\$ -	
23						\$ -	
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25							
26	Venue						
27	Hall for Launch Event	\$100 x 3 hr = \$300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	
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33	Other — Note: Grant funds cannot reimburse Food & Drink expenses; however, you may include these amounts as match.						
34	Catering at Launch Event	\$10 x 50 pp = \$500	<i>Food — Not Allowable</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
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36								
37	Note: Grant funds <u>cannot</u> reimburse expenses in the categories below; however, they are to be included here to reflect the entire project budget and <u>must</u> be counted as match in the Final Report.							
39	Staff Time							
40	Executive Director	\$45 x 5 hr x 24 wk = \$5,400	<i>Not Allowable for Reimbursement</i>	\$ -	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00		
41	Curator	\$30 x 5 hr x 20 wk = \$3,000		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		
42						\$ -		
44	Volunteer Time (@ \$40.97/hr, as valued by IndependentSector.org)							
45	Volunteer Researcher 1	\$40.97 x 15 hr x 20 wk = \$12,291	<i>Not Allowable for Reimbursement</i>	\$ -	\$ 12,291.00	\$ 12,291.00		
46	Volunteer Researcher 2	\$40.97 x 15 hr x 20 wk = \$12,291		\$ -	\$ 12,291.00	\$ 12,291.00		
47	Launch Event Volunteer 1	\$40.97 x 5 hr = \$204.85		\$ -	\$ 204.85	\$ 204.85		
48	Launch Event Volunteer 2	\$40.97 x 5 hr = \$204.85		\$ -	\$ 204.85	\$ 204.85		
49						\$ -		
51	Mileage (@ \$0.14/mi, as set by the IRS)							
52	Volunteer Researcher 1	\$0.14 x 25 mi x 16 wk = \$56.00	<i>Not Allowable for Reimbursement</i>	\$ -	\$ 56.00	\$ 56.00		
53	Volunteer Researcher 2	\$0.14 x 30 mi x 16 wk = \$67.20		\$ -	\$ 67.20	\$ 67.20		
54						\$ -		
55								
56								
58		ESTIMATED TOTALS:	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,920.00	\$ 35,314.90	\$ 46,734.90		
59				TOTAL MATCH:	\$ 43,234.90			



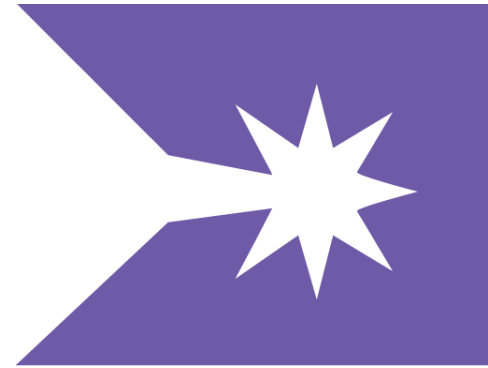


Possible Sources of Match

- Operating budget or cash reserves
- Project-specific fundraising
- Non-federal grant awards
- Goods: materials, supplies
- Services: donated professional time, staff time, volunteer time (includes committees)
- Venue space
- Mileage

Award Process

2026 Partnership
Grant Program





What to Expect

- Proposals reviewed and awarded on rolling basis from October 1, 2025 – April 15, 2026
- Email with award package or follow-up questions, if necessary
- Partnership Grant Agreement to be signed and returned
- Due date for Final Report
- Freedom's Way NHA logos

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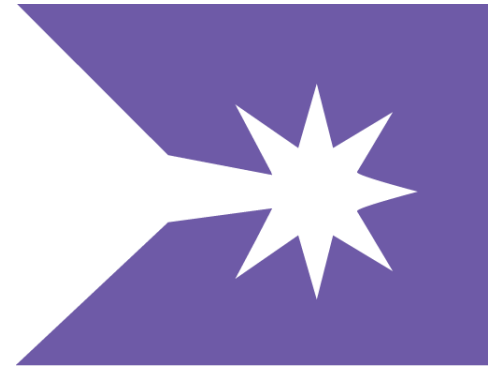


Keep Us in the Loop

- Share updates, events, etc. — we're happy to promote your work and attend if able
- Changes to the original proposal or project delays — just let us know!
- New staff/project manager — please introduce us before your departure

Closing Out the Grant

2026 Partnership
Grant Program





Final Report

- Guidelines sent with award package and available on website
- Brief narrative sharing impacts and accomplishments
- Updated budget with actuals
- Documentation of expenses to be reimbursed
- Documentation of match
- Copies of publicity and photos

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Importance of Due Date

- Due 8 weeks after anticipated completion date stated in proposal, or Sept. 1, 2026 —whichever comes first
- Will consider a single extension request on case-by-case basis
- Fiscal year ends Sept. 30th



A Partnership Endeavor

- Grantees acknowledged in collateral & on social media platforms
- Projects shared with National Park Service and Freedom's Way NHA communities
- Thank you for advancing the mission and vision of the Freedom's Way NHA!

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Questions?

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