

PUBLIC COMMENTS

530-RICR-20-00-1 Rules and Regulations for the State Preservation Grants

The following public comments were received via email:

- "1.8 Grant Terms A. Grant Amount Grants will be available in two (2) categories: Small Project Grants of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) to fifty (\$50,000) and Large Project Grants up to one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). "
This statement above needs clarification as to the grant amount being requested by the applicant . Is the grant amount the dollars requested or the total amount including the matched funds. ? *
- One element of preservation/restoration that is underserved in regard to potential funds is historic burial sites and their gravestones. Every area of the state has volunteers donating their time, expertise, and materials to preserve existing historic material and recover some that has been lost for decades if not centuries. Gravestone conservation does not fit into many grant criteria. Perhaps there's a way to include this important need in the state initiative?
- After a seriously challenging year, I hope the State will agree to temporarily waive the 1:1 match, since it will be difficult, and in many cases, impossible to fund the match. And, the other observation is that it has become very difficult to obtain 3 bids for this sort of work - also a lingering effect of the pandemic.
- Thank you for the opportunity to share comments on the proposed guidelines for the State Preservation Grant. The Newport Art Museum anticipates submitting a grant request; however the 1;1 grant match will be difficult given the past year we have experienced with fundraising and donor engagement activities that were reduced due to COVID. Aquidneck Island and throughout the State are also experiencing a surge in construction projects and a shortage of labor. This has led to contractors and craftsmen who are booked very far in advance and it is difficult to get estimates. Given this situation, I hope the State will waive the requirement of 3 bids as this will elongate the process for work to commence and be completed in a timely manner. Thank you for your continued support and advocacy for the arts in our beautiful community.
- I reviewed what you sent and I see that leased buildings will no longer be eligible for grants. I am sad about that, but you do what you have to do. *

* RIHPHC notes that leased buildings ARE eligible for State Preservation Grants, pursuant to §1.7.B.1(b) of this Part: "Applicants who lease their

properties and obtain the property owner's authorization to apply for the grant will be considered on a case by case basis."