

FY 2010 Call for Proposals Project Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of the First Round proposals will be based on the Commission's identified goals. Please refer to the Commission's Cultural Heritage and Land Use Management Plan and "The Next Ten Years".

ABSOLUTE CRITERIA:

Applications **MUST** meet the four Absolute Criteria. A "no" in any of these categories automatically disqualifies the application. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

1. **Deadline:** Applications must be received by November 18th, 2009 at 5:00 PM.
2. **Application Complete:** Applications must contain all requested information.
3. **Project Location:** Project must be within the Corridor's boundaries.
4. **Budget:** Application must include a proposed project budget including fund matches.

Fund matches may include other federal funds, state, local and private funds; must be directly attributable to the proposed project; and may be cash or in-kind services.

Acceptable in-kind services are:

- employee salaries,
- donated (volunteer) services,
- consultant services,
- travel costs,
- material/supply costs,
- land acquisition costs,
- building acquisition costs,
- renovation/restoration costs,
- site development costs, and/or
- plan, report, survey costs.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The following criteria will be used to evaluate applications.

1. **Corridor Goals:** Project should further one or more of the Corridor's priorities including:
 - Preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of historic buildings and landscapes
 - Habitat restoration, park development, trails, and/or river cleanup
 - Canoe/kayak access sites and/or recreational development
 - Educational programs, exhibits and/or interpretive signs
 - Heritage and sustainable tourism projects or programs
 - Projects or programs engaging youth and/or minority populations in awareness and stewardship of the Valley's heritage

Does the project address many Corridor goals, or make a significant contribution to one or more goals?

2. Need: Project should be necessary - there is a threat to the resource; there is public need or demand, or other identified goal. Applicant should demonstrate necessity.

Does the project address a significant threat to an important Corridor resource (structure, land or water); address needs identified in Corridor plans, local comprehensive plans, etc.; and/or contribute to broad public understanding and commitment?

3. Resource Significance: The project should stand out as being important, not just to the applicant or to the immediate neighborhood, but to the town, state, region or nation. Project should provide special historical, recreational, cultural, or environmental education opportunities for the public. Project should protect, restore, and/or interpret significant resources of value to the town, the Corridor, or the nation. Applications for restoration/rehabilitation projects must document that the buildings or sites have direct connection to the Corridor story and themes. Preference will be given to projects that are on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; on the Blackstone NHC inventory; and/or are within a National Historic District.

Does the project demonstrate a high level of significance and opportunity for the public?

4. Impact: Project should show or have a significant impact on the region. Applicant should demonstrate how the public will benefit from this project through accessibility or educational opportunities.

Does the project:

- *Provide for a dramatic rehabilitation of a derelict site that improves the heritage infrastructure, waterways, or special places within the Corridor?*
- *Restores an identified significant historic site that has frequent public use?*
- *Provide interpretation or exhibits that enhance Corridor infrastructure, waterways, and/or identified special places or further the public's understanding of the Corridor?*
- *Provide programs that include and reach many people within and outside the Corridor in keeping with the Commission's goals?*
- *Provide positive economic development opportunities that protect significant resources and enhance special places?*

5. Links & Partnerships: Project should:

- Encourage partnership, and/or
- Stimulate action by others, and/or
- Commit others to resource protection, and/or
- Link or have applicability to other projects or sites within the Corridor.

Does the project indicate a high level of, or desire for, being a part of the 'Big Picture' and/or combining resources through partnerships that enhance the overall outcome of the project?

6. Leverage of Federal Funds: Legislation authorizing Corridor development funds states: “In making such funds available, the Secretary [of the Interior] shall give consideration to projects which provide a greater leverage of Federal funds.”

Does the applicant indicate a significant amount of non-federal match?

7. Management Ability: The applicant should show the ability to effectively administer the project. Applicant has sufficient staff; past experience with similar level projects; demonstrates an ability to sustain the program or provide long-term maintenance for structures; and has provided realistic cost and time estimates for the project.

Does the applicant have the ability to administer the project through previous similar experience, and/or through known examples of past indicators? Does the applicant have the ability to sustain the project long term?