

National Park Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Announces Opportunity for Assistance

Are you working on a Lewis and Clark Trail project and would like some assistance?

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Partner Support Program announces an opportunity to work collaboratively to achieve your goals. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (Trail) Partner Support Program is made up of an interdisciplinary team of NPS specialists that offer their assistance in support of partner-driven projects that help protect Trail resources, communicate the stories and enhance the Trail visitor experience.

Through this competitive process, the Trail Partner Support Program team can dedicate its time and resources to assist partners with compatible missions in areas such as consultation, facilitation, technical assistance, funding, training, liaisonship, network development, etc.

Applications will be accepted for technical assistance with or without funding.

NEW THIS YEAR:

We will only be accepting Technical Assistance with Funding applications through Grants.gov, the Federal Financial Assistance online system for funding opportunities.

Technical Assistance Only without funding applications will once again be accepted through our office in Omaha, Nebraska.

Please follow the appropriate procedures for the type of assistance you are requesting.

We will be accepting applications from January 23 through February 27, 2012.

Who is eligible to apply for assistance?

All non-profit organizations; for-profit organizations; educational institutions; local, state and tribal governments; and private individuals are eligible to request assistance through the Trail Partner Support Program.

Applicants must need and expect substantial involvement from Trail Partner Support Program staff in the execution and management of projects. This involvement will include, but is not limited to: collaboration, participation, project visioning or re-envisioning.

Projects will be considered regardless of geographic location, but must demonstrate a clear connection to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and its mission:

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will work in partnership to protect the Trail for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all people.

How much money is available per project?

The amount awarded per project is dependent upon available funding at the time of award. No project will be awarded less than \$5,000 or more than \$20,000.

Are there any restrictions?

There is no limit on the number of *Applications for Technical Assistance* that may be submitted. However, no single entity that requests funding will be awarded more than \$20,000 in total under this announcement.

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Applying for Assistance

How do I apply?

To receive consideration, complete applications must be submitted following the guidelines below. Remember, the application process is different for requests **with funding** than for requests **without funding**. Please be sure to follow the correct procedures for the type of assistance for which you are applying.

Applications for technical assistance with funding

Applicants requesting funding **must apply via the Grants.gov website** at <http://www.grants.gov/>. You will need to register with Grants.gov. prior to applying. Getting registered normally takes 3 to 5 business days, but can take much longer. If you decide you want to apply, we recommend registering right away.

A step-by-step guide to registering with Grants.gov is available at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp If you have any questions regarding this registration process, please direct your questions to Grants.gov.

Please note when registering that all applicants, except those applying as individuals (not on behalf of an organization), will need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and current Central Contractor Registration (CCR) in order to register with Grants.gov and submit an application.

While those applying as individuals don't need a DUNS number and current CCR to apply, individuals *will* need a DUNS number and a CCR if chosen for award in order to be reimbursed for their project.

Questions about the application process for this technical assistance with funding opportunity can be directed to the agency point of contact, Tonya Bradley (tonya_bradley@nps.gov) or at 402-661-1656.

To find this funding opportunity announcement on Grants.gov, search using the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number **15.935** or try a keyword search for "Trail". The funding opportunity number is forthcoming. We will update this website with that number as soon as it is available.

The *application package for technical assistance with funding* includes the following items which are ONLY available on [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for this announcement:

- *Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Partner Support Program Technical Assistance with Funding Application*
- *Application for Federal Financial Assistance (SF424)*
- *Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF424a)*
- *Assurances- Non-Construction Programs (SF424b)Budget Information - Construction Programs (SF424c)* Note: Only required in applications for construction projects

- *Optional:* Two attachments will be accepted with your application. These attachments must be image files of photos, maps, or other graphics the support your proposal. Each attachment cannot be greater than 2 megabytes

Completed applications for *technical assistance with funding* MUST be submitted by the closing date via Grants.gov.

Applications for funding received by any other means (i.e. mailed or emailed to the Trail Partner Support Program) will not be accepted. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Applications for technical assistance *without funding*

Applications for assistance *without* funding should NOT be submitted via the Grants.gov website. Applicants requesting Trail Partner Support Program assistance without funding need only complete and submit this [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Partner Support Program Technical Assistance without funding Application](#) (click this link to download application).

No other forms are required.

Up to 2 attachments of graphic files, such as photos, maps, or drawings, that support the application will be accepted, but are not required. Each attachment cannot be greater than **2 megabytes**. Applications should be submitted to the Trail Partner Support Program via one of the following methods:

Email: Please see the [application](#) to get the email address for the Trail Partner Support Program and instructions for submitting by email.

Mail to: Trail Partner Support Program
Application for Technical Assistance without funding
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Fax to: 402-661-1813

Completed applications for assistance without funding must be postmarked by February 27, 2012 and received at the above Trail Office no later than March 5th, 2012 to receive consideration.

*** If the above application format does not meet your needs, please call the Trail Partner Support Program line at 402-661-1820 or LECL_PartnerSupport@nps.gov

Rating and Award

How will applications be rated? Note: Applies to ALL applications

A multidisciplinary independent review panel will score applications, placing equal weight on the following criteria:

- Project or program description, including objectives and budget
- Need for the project and its anticipated impact
- Benefits to the public, the Trail, and applicant
- Inclusion of existing and potential partners and their roles in the project or program, including the Trail's anticipated role
- Ability to complete and sustain project or program

After projects have been scored using the above rating criteria, the Trail Partner Support Program will determine awards by also considering funds availability, availability of program staff time, and geographical distribution of rated projects. Additionally, projects will be evaluated on whether there was an effort to engage interested tribes and if environmentally responsible practices will be used in the implementation of the project.

When will I find out if I am awarded technical assistance with or without funding?
Applicants will be notified of application status within 60 days of closing date.

If I am awarded technical assistance without funding, what do I get?

These projects will receive up to two years of Trail staff support. Trail staff involvement will be determined collaboratively with awardee and outlined in an informal agreement.

Are there any reporting requirements?

Awardees are required to submit regular status reports and a final accomplishment report. The particulars and dates for such reporting will be agreed on by the awardee and the NPS.

If I am awarded technical assistance with funding, what do I get?

These projects will receive funding [All awards are contingent on availability of federal funds] and Trail staff involvement for the length of time specified in a formal Cooperative Agreement. Trail Partner Support Program staff and awardees will determine and agree on Trail staff substantial involvement through a Cooperative Agreement that must be reviewed, signed by an authorized official of the awardee's agency and returned to the Trail office no later than May 3, 2012.

If my project is funded, when can I use these funds?

Expenditures that are intended for reimbursement must only be incurred after federal funds become available and a Cooperative Agreement has been signed

by both the NPS and the awardees. Trail funded components of the project must be completed by September 30, 2014.

If my project is funded, how do I receive funds?

Funds will be authorized through a Cooperative Agreement and reimbursed electronically. All funding will be on a reimbursable basis and paid by electronic funds transfer. Awardee must demonstrate expenditures for materials, services, or other expenses when requesting reimbursement. Other federal sources of funds will not be considered as eligible expenditures for reimbursement.

Are there any reporting requirements?

Awardees are required to complete regular status reports and a final accomplishment report in order to receive payment. These reports must demonstrate how these funds were used and how this contributed to the progress or success of the project (i.e. photographs, newspaper articles, other). The particulars and dates for such reporting will be agreed on by the awardee and the NPS.

For additional information about this program or the application process, please contact the Trail Partner Support Program by email at LECL_PartnerSupport@nps.gov or by calling 402-661-1820.