**FY2025 Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF) Grant Program**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Eligibility

Q: How do we determine if our office or resources are eligible?

A: Applicants may use the [Disaster Declarations by County Dashboard Map](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/2c0808cdc6f14cca928c884346ac7900) to determine eligibility or visit the [Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations) for a list of major disaster declarations. More information about major disaster declarations can be found at fema.gov/disasters.

SHPOs and THPOs applying under the Capacity Notice of Funding Opportunity ([P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914)) should use the map to verify major disaster declarations within their jurisdictions during calendar year 2023 and/or 2024.

Applicants applying under the Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)) should use the map to verify the resource(s)'s location within an eligible declared disaster area.

Note that the Incident Period for the eligible Major Disaster Declaration should **begin** in calendar year 2023 or 2024.

Q: As a SHPO, what is the best way to develop a list of all eligible areas in my state?

A: SHPOs may use the map as a starting point to visually search specific disasters, locations, or resources but if you are looking to generate a comprehensive list of eligible counties or of all eligible storms in your state, we would recommend using [FEMA’s Disaster Declaration search page](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations) which provides a list of all counties receiving assistance under each eligible disaster declaration.

Q: Does the ESHPF Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) also include survey work or planning activities?

A: No, unless required for pre-preservation work. Archaeological and architectural surveys that seek only to identify sites are not eligible under [P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913). However, archaeological investigations may be necessary prior to some physical preservation.

SHPOs and THPOs interested in carrying out survey and identification activities should apply for that work under the ESHPF Capacity NOFO ([P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914))

Q: Can subgrantees under previous ESHPF awards or other HPF grantees apply for the new funding?

A: Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are not eligible. Project work must be tied to major disaster declarations occurring in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024 that are eligible under the FY2025 funding opportunities. Each application must also be for a separate phase if it is a part of a multi-phase project, and significant progress must be demonstrated on prior phases to warrant additional funding. Applicants may be excluded if progress has not been demonstrated.

Q: Are private individuals eligible to apply?

A: Private property owners may not apply directly. However, eligible applicants may apply on behalf of those individuals. A letter of owner consent providing written permission for the applicant to complete the projects, any applicable easements, and any applicable NR nominations must be included in the application.

For example, a SHPO or nonprofit might apply on behalf of multiple property owners in a historic district and could procure one (1) contractor to carry out the repairs for that group of buildings.

Q: Are grants for Pre-Preservation eligible?

A: Yes, but pre-preservation projects should not exceed 20% of the estimated construction cost. The applicant should make a reasonable case for that relative cost in their application where the project activities include just pre-preservation. Pre-preservation costs as part of a larger Preservation project should not exceed 20% of the total Preservation project cost for each site.

Q: May we charge administrative costs to the grant?

A: Yes, but administrative costs to manage the grant may not exceed 25% of the total project budget per statute.

Q: Does staff time have to be charged as administrative or indirect costs?

A: If staff is doing the project work (i.e., conducting surveys, writing nominations, reviewing draft/final products submitted by consultants, etc.) those costs should be charged as program costs and would not count towards the statutory 25% administrative cap for HPF grants. However, costs your office would typically charge as indirect costs should continue to be charged as indirect costs under the grant award.

Q: Will this funding include subgrant programs?

A: This funding will **not** include subgrants. Applicants are encouraged to apply for multiple projects under one application, but project sites should be defined at the time of submission. Applicants should plan to manage the projects in-house or through contracts/consultants and may include personnel/staffing costs in the budget.

Q: Can an applicant receive a partial award?

A: Applications are not all or nothing. We encourage you to apply for the funding that you need, but if the full amount requested cannot be accommodated, you may still potentially receive a partial award. It may be helpful to explain your priority list in your application. So if there are areas or resources that may be in higher need for survey, you might provide those details in your application so that we can better understand what the applicant needs most and the associated costs if a partial award is being considered.

Q: Is staff time and eligible cost?

A: Yes. SHPOs and THPOs may also hire staff or consultants to support the increased workload of managing the grants. Capacity to manage the preservation repairs may be applied for under either Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (i.e., personnel/staffing costs for a grant manager to manage projects can be under either NOFO).

Other eligible entities applying for the ESHPF Preservation NOFO may also include personnel costs to support management of the grant in their application.

Q: We are looking to do survey work. How should we apply?

A: SHPOs and THPOs looking to do survey work related to a major disaster declaration should apply for that work under the Capacity Notice of Funding Opportunity ([P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914)). For other entities applying under the Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity, such as nonprofits, survey is only eligible if it is required for pre-preservation work.

Q: What are the National Register requirements for this program?

A: Resources must be listed in or determined eligible by the applicable SHPO or THPO for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, equivalent Tribal register, or designated a National Historic Landmark, either individually or as contributing to a historic district.

Projects not yet listed must prepare a nomination as part of the grant project.

Activities related to nominating or amending National Register nominations for the subject resource(s) are eligible costs.

If you are a SHPO or THPO, you may apply for this work under either Notice of Funding Opportunity.

An updated nomination may not be required for listed resources reconstructed under this program, but grantees will work closely with NPS to document changes with NR and NHL staff.

Q: Can SHPOs and THPOs only work on State- or Tribal-owned property?

A: If your project is doing work to a property or multiple resources and the owner(s) are different than the applicant, then the applicant must include written permission from the owner(s) to complete the project and any applicable easements or covenants with the application. However, the resource must be within the State or Tribe’s jurisdiction.

Under the ESHPF Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)) other state and Tribal government entities may also apply directly for work at state- or tribal-owned sites (i.e., a state parks department if separate from the SHPO).

## Application Process

Q: Will both Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) be posted at the same time?

A: Yes, but the Notice of Funding Opportunity for SHPO and THPO capacity will be open for 30 days (Deadline is June 12, 2025, no later than 11:59PM ET.) and the NOFO for physical preservation projects will be open for 60 days (Deadline is July 15, 2025, no later than 11:59PM ET.) The intent is to award the Capacity NOFO first ([P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914)) and remaining funds will go towards the second NOFO for physical work ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)).

Q: Will the first Notice of Funding Opportunity for SHPOs and THPOs allow construction?

A: No. All physical preservation should be applied for under the ESHPF Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)).

Q: How many applications will this process require SHPOs and THPOs to submit?

A: Up to two (2) applications—One (1) application for each Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). For example, a SHPO or THPO planning to do multiple survey projects and repair multiple buildings would submit one (1) application for the ESHPF Capacity NOFO ([P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914)) describing all of those survey projects and one (1) application for the ESHPF Preservation NOFO ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)) describing all of the sites they intend to repair.

Q: How much funding will be available for each Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)? How will the money be split? Is there a max amount for both?

A: Applicants are encouraged to apply for the funding that they need, but should take into account the amount of funding available for a large number of major disaster declarations eligible under this appropriation. Funds will be awarded to SHPOs and THPOs under the first Notice of Funding Opportunity for capacity ([P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914)) and remaining funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to eligible entities under the second NOFO ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)).

Q: Should we submit separate applications for separate projects?

A: Applicants may submit one application for all planned projects under one entity. However, each project should be defined in the application and described in the project description worksheet. For example, a nonprofit planning to manage a contract for physical repairs to multiple buildings across a state would submit one application and describe each intended project site.

Q: If we apply for multiple sites (i.e., across the state), do the sites need to be thematically linked?

A: There does not need to be a theme or link between sites, nor do all of the sites need to be damaged by the same disaster under one (1) application. The individual sites just need to have documented damage as a result of a major disaster declaration that occurred in calendar years 2023 and/or 2024. A grantee may apply with a focus on a historic district impacted by a specific disaster, but that is not required. The application could also include repairs to multiple sites across a state that are otherwise independent of each other.

Q: How will awards be selected?

A: In addition to the Evaluation Criteria provided under each Notice of Funding Opportunity, NPS may use planning numbers derived from US Census and FEMA data to guide allocation of funding across affected areas.

Q: Is match required?

A: Match is **not required**. But if you choose to include match share in your application, it should be further defined in the Budget Justification worksheet.

### Q: Under Criterion 4 in the ESHPF Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) ([P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913)) what is meant by “community benefit”?

A: Long-term project impact on the community can be addressed in a broad number of ways and it is up to the applicant to make that case. Will repairing the site provide economic benefits (i.e., a historic downtown building that was home to small businesses)?; Does the site provide a social service (i.e., repairing a community center that will reopen after repairs are complete)?

## Award Management

Q: How frequentLY will reporting be Required?

A: Reporting frequency will be based on risk level and need.

Q: What if a SHPO or THPO applies for costs under the Capacity Notice of Funding Opportunity to manage projects under the Preservation Notice of Funding Opportunity or vice versa, but are not awarded both grants?

A: We will work with the SHPO or THPO to adjust the budget accordingly.

Q: Will a programmatic agreement be created to expedite Section 106 review for this program?

A: NPS will utilize the process in the executed [Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (PA) for Cultural Resources Grants and Financial Assistance](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1966/programmatic-agreement-financial-assistance.htm) to meet its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act so a new programmatic agreement specifically for the new ESHPF funding will not be needed.

SHPOs (and THPOs, as applicable) will be responsible for Section 106 review for activities under [P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914) (Capacity) and any projects for which they are the applicant under [P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913) (Preservation) as Authorized Recipients under the PA.

A Tribe with a THPO may become a Tribal Signatory to the Nationwide PA to apply the provisions of the Nationwide PA to proposed undertakings that may occur on or affect historic resources on that Tribe’s lands. This process is outline in Stipulation I.B and Appendix D of the Nationwide PA.

Most undertakings under [P25AS00257](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358914) (Capacity) will likely not require further Section 106 review (Appendix B) or fall under a programmatic allowance (Appendix C).

NPS will be responsible for Section 106 for other grantee organizations that apply under [P25AS00489](https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/358913) (Preservation) and that are not Authorized Recipients under the Nationwide PA, reducing review burden on SHPO staff.

NPS will take the lead in identifying and consulting with Tribes, and also take the lead in identifying and consulting with NHOs, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2) and 36 CFR § 800.3(c)- (f) and will continue NEPA review responsibilities.