



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants for Historic Properties

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is preparing to award \$3 million in historic preservation grants to preserve and/or rehabilitate historic properties and sites impacted by Hurricane Sandy. These federal funds were appropriated by the U.S. Congress for hurricane relief assistance. The grants will be administered in accordance with regulations of the National Park Service. Only projects that are directly related to damage from Hurricane Sandy are eligible for grants. Properties eligible for grants must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or must meet the criteria for listing on the National Register. Grants may be awarded to privately-owned and public (nonfederal) properties.

The RIHPHC will consider the following criteria when selecting recipients for Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants for Historic Properties:

- a) Historic significance of the property.
- b) Severity and nature of the damage to the historic property.
- c) Ability of the project to repair the storm related damage.
- d) Ability of the applicant to manage and complete the project promptly and successfully.
- e) Completeness and accuracy of the grant application.

All work performed on a historic property that receives grant assistance will be reviewed by RIHPHC and must be approved as meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Owners of historic properties and sites impacted by Hurricane Sandy are invited to submit a preliminary application for 2013 Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants for Historic Properties. The preliminary application should be submitted as soon as possible with the summary information requested. If the RIHPHC determines that the project appears to be eligible for grant funding, a more detailed final grant application will be requested. The deadline for filing a preliminary grant application is August 1, 2013.

Questions and Answers about the Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grants for Historic Properties

- 1) Are projects at nonfederal publicly-owned buildings used for government purposes eligible for this grant?

Yes.

- 2) Does the property have to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

All properties receiving grant assistance for **development or construction work** must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This includes individually listed properties and those contributing to the significance of a National Register historic district. Grants for **construction work** also may be awarded to properties that are deemed to be eligible for the National Register even if the formal listing process has not been completed.

- 3) What are **Eligible projects** for grant assistance?

Eligible projects fall into the following categories:

- a. Restoration Construction: construction to repair or restore a historic building that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.
 - b. Archeological Stabilization: archeological sites may be eligible as long as the project meets certain requirements.
 - c. Landscaping: restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization, preservation, or protection of a documented historic landscape that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.
 - d. Architecture & Engineering: preparation of architectural and engineering Plans and Specifications, Engineering Reports, Historic Structures Reports, and Landscape Studies.
 - e. Survey: survey and documentation of damaged historic resources, or survey to assess the level of damage to historic properties.
- 4) What are **Ineligible projects** for grant assistance?
- a. Acquisition: Acquisition of real property is not an eligible cost for assistance from this emergency funding.
 - b. Major Reconstruction: Reconstruction is limited to portions of a historic property that still retain sufficient significance and integrity to remain listed in the National Register. Total reconstructions are not eligible for grant assistance. If specific features or elements of a building or landscape are missing and thus need to be

recreated, this work is potentially eligible for funding (provided adequate historical documentation is available). Major reconstruction projects, such as reconstructing a building or landscape that has been completely destroyed, are not eligible for grant assistance. Vanished structures, by definition, have lost their integrity and therefore are no longer eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or for grant assistance.

- 5) Are Architectural and Engineering plans and specifications for hurricane-damaged structures allowable costs?

Yes. However, costs incurred prior to October 29, 2012 may not be charged to this grant.

- 6) Are costs that have already been incurred allowable?

Yes, under certain conditions. The activities must have taken place after October 29, 2012 to be eligible for grant funding.

- 7) Will grant recipients be required to execute historic preservation covenants/easements?

Yes. Grant-recipients will be required to sign a covenant/easement recorded on the property deed of all grant projects. The minimum term lengths for those covenants are based on grant amounts and are as follows:

- For grants up to \$50,000—a five-year covenant/easement
- For grants between \$50,001 and \$99,999—a ten-year covenant/easement
- For grants of \$100,000 and above—a twenty-year covenant/easement

- 8) Do Federal procurement requirements have to be met for work funded by this grant? Does the Davis-Bacon Act apply to Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grant projects?

Grant recipients will be required to follow reasonable competitive bidding procedures. However, the federal Davis-Bacon Act that sets prevailing wage rules will not apply to these grants.

- 9) Who will select, approve, and review grant projects?

Members of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission will select and approve projects that apply for grants. The Commission's professional staff will manage the individual grant projects and will review and approve plans and actual work performed in accordance with RIHPHC rules and the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties issued by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Grants to properties that are National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) will also be reviewed by the National Park Service.