

EVALUATION of APPLICATIONS for 2015 STATE PRESERVATION GRANTS

Adopted by the RIHP&HC July 8, 2015

The following criteria are used to evaluate projects. Overall scores may be used to rank and sort applications in order to facilitate discussion among reviewers. Excellent projects will score well in every category. However, a very low score in significance, need, or impact may indicate a project that should not be awarded a grant. The Review Committee's final recommendations to the Commission for grant funding will be based on a statewide group of projects taking into account all of the evaluation criteria.

(1) HISTORICAL/ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (10 points): 1-10 points will rate the property's historical and architectural significance.

Excellent projects will further the preservation of significant historic properties. This evaluation factor tries to measure the relative historical and architectural significance of applicants' properties.

- 1-3 points: properties that contribute to the overall significance of a historic district but lack individual significance.
- 4-6 points: properties within a historic district or individually registered that are very good examples of their type and/or important local landmarks.
- 7-10 points: properties that possess individual distinction and are considered significant when compared with other historic properties throughout the state.

(2) PROJECT NEED (10 points): 1-10 points will rate the project's physical preservation needs.

Excellent projects will undertake restoration and construction work that truly is needed to preserve the historic property and to fulfill its mission as a museum or cultural art center or public historic site. This evaluation factor tries to measure the value of the proposed project work.

- 1-3 points: projects that do not address important historic features and that have little impact on the operation of the public historic site, museum, or cultural art center.
- 4-6 points: projects that make a long-term improvement and preserve character-defining features of the building and/or make a needed improvement to the building's function as a public historic site, museum, or cultural art center.
- 7-10 points: projects that address a significant threat to the building's preservation and/or restore unusually significant historic features.

(3) PROJECT IMPACT (10 points): 1-10 points will rate the project's ability to serve an audience and to attract support.

Excellent projects will serve the larger community in addition to meeting a need of the historic property. This evaluation factor tries to measure the extent to which the completed project will benefit people who live in the community and recognizes public use of the public historic site, museum, or cultural art center. This factor also measures the ability of a State Preservation Grant to leverage other support for the project.

- 1-3 points: the project will serve relatively few people and will not materially enhance preservation of the property, public activities, or cultural programming.
- 4-6 points: the project will serve many people in its community; it will be visible; and it demonstrates local support.
- 7-10 points: the project will serve many people in its community and throughout its region or statewide; it will be highly visible; and it has generated widespread support in its own community and beyond.

(4) **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION (5 points):** 1-5 points will rate the project's ability to address the needs of significantly underserved populations and/or recognize the project as the most important State Preservation Grant application in its town or region.

This evaluation criterion is used to identify those particular applications that will receive special consideration in order to assure that State Preservation Grants are awarded to projects throughout the state and/or projects that have a unique ability to serve underserved populations.

(5) **PLANNING (5 points):** 1-5 points will rate the project's compatibility with a local comprehensive plan or development plan.

Some projects are developed specifically with the purpose of furthering a community development plan, such as restoration of a historic theatre that is part of a larger plan to revitalize the economy of a downtown Main Street or improvement of a historic farm museum to be the centerpiece of a community-wide greenway and open space program. "Planning Points" should be awarded to such projects. However, points should not be awarded just because a project will be "good for the community" in some non-specific way since it is expected that every project will be good for its community.