

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Grant Guidelines

Who May Apply

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) provides grant funding for projects and programs submitted by organizations located within its 41-county boundary and with an approved partnership pledge on file.

Eligible applicants include museums, archives, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, and historically significant sites that communicate one or more of FFNHA's congressionally mandated themes.

Organizations may apply independently or in collaboration with other eligible entities; however, only one organization may serve as the official applicant. The applicant must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and all funded projects must be completed within FFNHA's fiscal year (October 1–September 30).

Audience

Proposed projects or programs must serve audiences and communities located within FFNHA's 41-county boundary.

Grant Amounts and Limits

- Mini Grants: Up to \$1,000.
- Project Grants: Up to \$3,000.
- Heritage Grants: Up to \$10,000.

Application Submission Deadlines

Grant cycles open and close based on federal funding availability. Current deadlines and application details are available on FFNHA's website.

Supported Activities

FFNHA funds nonprofit programs and projects that promote tourism and economic development by advancing one or more of the following themes:

- Settlement of the western frontier
- Kansas–Missouri Border War and the Civil War
- The enduring struggle for freedom

Eligible expenses may include:

- Interpretive projects: exhibits (indoor/outdoor), digital/video/audio media, brochures, signage, tours, public programs, living history, and creative or performing arts
- Marketing and promotion: publicity efforts and consumable/distributable materials
- Accessibility improvements: increasing public access to sites, events, or content

- Equipment: purchase or rental necessary for project completion
- Supplies: exhibit or archival materials
- Preservation and repair: restoration of buildings, documents, exhibits, or artifacts (may require Section 106 review)
- Personnel costs: reasonable salaries, stipends, honoraria, or travel reimbursements directly tied to the project (excluding food and per diems)
- Professional development: non-credit training opportunities

Section 106 Compliance

Projects involving historic properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must complete a Section 106 Review through the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

To be eligible for funding:

- To be eligible for funding:
- A copy of the resolution must be submitted with the application
- All awarded funds must be used in compliance with the review findings

Applications may not be considered if a Section 106 Review appears necessary but has not been completed. Applicants should consult their state SHPO office to begin the process.

Ineligible Expenses

FFNHA grants do **not** fund:

- Individual scholarships, fellowships, or personal research expenses
- Academic coursework for credit
- Food or per diem expenses
- Lobbying or political advocacy
- Fundraising activities or for-profit projects
- Costs incurred prior to grant award
- Discriminatory programs or activities
- Projects primarily benefiting private memberships, political groups, or religious congregations
- Activities that violate federal guidelines or jeopardize FFNHA funding
- Organizations with an open, unclosed FFNHA grant

Lead Time Requirements

No project activities may begin until after the grant agreement is fully executed. This federal requirement is non-negotiable.

All project expenses and activities—from start to finish—must occur after the award date. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of funds.

Additional Requirements

- Extension requests must be submitted in writing and approved before the end of FFNHA's fiscal year
- Projects lasting longer than six months require a progress report every six months
- Organizations may hold only one active FFNHA grant at a time

Application Support

FFNHA staff and grant committee members are available to review draft applications and provide feedback prior to submission. Early submission of drafts is encouraged to allow time for revisions.

Draft reviews improve competitiveness but do not guarantee funding.

Funding Distribution

Grant funds are distributed in two installments:

- 50% upon award acceptance: after submission of signed acceptance and certification documents (due within 30 days of notification)
- 50% upon completion: after submission and approval of the final report

Close-Out Reports

Final reports are due within 90 days of the end of the grant period. Extensions may be granted upon written request and FFNHA approval.

Acknowledgement of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

All materials produced with FFNHA funding must:

- Include the FFNHA logo
- Acknowledge funding support from Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Recipients must also notify relevant federal, state, and local legislators of their award.

Confidentiality

FFNHA staff, stakeholders, and reviewers will maintain confidentiality of submitted materials, including financial information and application discussions.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.