Building upon the success of the African American Civil Rights Grant Program, the FY 2020 appropriations bill expanded funding to preserve and protect more sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for all Americans. The bill increased funding for African American Civil Rights grants and created a new $2.5 million competitive grant program for Civil Rights for All Americans, which includes women, American Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans.

As we look to the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment and beyond, the expansion of this program can help to elevate the sites and stories associated with women’s history.

**Background**
Congress created the African American Civil Rights Grant Program in FY 2016 with an initial appropriation of $8 million. Since its inception, the National Park Service has awarded grants to 133 projects totaling more than $33 million across 32 states and the District of Columbia. The grants fund documentation, survey, planning, education, interpretation, and bricks and mortar preservation.

**FY 2021 Appropriations Request**
Please support $28 million for Civil Rights Grant Programs, including $20 million for African American Civil Rights Grants and $8 million for Civil Rights for All Americans Grants in the FY 2021 Interior Appropriations bill.

**African American Civil Rights Grants**

| APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies | AGENCY: National Park Service |
| ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund | ACTIVITY: Competitive grants to document, interpret, and preserve historical sites associated with the African American Civil Rights Movement |

Recent Funding History:

- FY 2018 Enacted Funding: $13 million
- FY 2019 Enacted Funding: $14.5 million
- FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $15.5 million
- FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $0
- FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $20 million

**Civil Rights for All Americans Grants**

| APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies | AGENCY: National Park Service |
| ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund | ACTIVITY: Civil rights grant program that would preserve and highlight the sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for All Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans |

Recent Funding History:

- FY 2020 Enacted Funding: $2.5 million
- FY 2021 President’s Budget Request: $0
- FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation: $8 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding for the African American Civil Rights grants and the new competitive grant program for Civil Rights for All Americans would better protect and interpret important civil rights sites for all Americans. An emphasis on women’s history sites and stories should be a particular focus this year as we commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment.
Civil Rights Grant Programs: Highlighted Projects

Clayborn Temple, Tennessee (Bricks and Mortar, Education)
FY 2016 $400,000; FY 2017 $500,000 and $20,000
The City of Memphis received two grants enabling it to restore the previously shuttered Clayborn Temple, home base of the 1968 Sanitation Worker’s strike that brought Martin Luther King, Jr. to the city. The National Trust for Historic Preservation also received funding to develop an exhibit on Clayborn’s story.

Central High School, Arkansas (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2016 $499,372; FY 2017 $499,218
Little Rock Central High School played a significant role in the desegregation of public schools when nine African American students enrolled in 1957. The City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District both received grants to prevent water damage by restoring the exterior of Central High School.

Pauli Murray House, North Carolina (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2016 $237,575
The Pauli Murray Center for Historic and Social Justice received a grant to conduct an extensive interior rehabilitation of the home of Pauli Murray, an activist for women’s and civil rights, author, priest, educator, and attorney. Murray’s efforts were critical to retaining legal protections for women against employment discrimination, and her civil rights work led to the creation of the National Organization for Women (NOW). The National Historic Landmark is scheduled to reopen this year as a modern center for social justice.

Rosenwald Schools, Various (Survey, Mapping)
FY 2016 $50,000
The National Trust for Historic Preservation received a grant to inventory and map extant Rosenwald Schools by consolidating existing statewide surveys into one data set. This project created a baseline for understanding the number and location of schools standing, and helped to educate those who seek to support their future preservation.

16th Street Baptist Church, Alabama (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2016 $500,000; FY 2017 $500,000
The 16th Street Baptist Church was a key meeting place for civil rights rallies led by Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as the site of the 1963 bombing that killed four young girls and injured 22 others. The grants will help the church complete phases II and III of its preservation efforts, including restoration of the pews and stained-glass windows.

Isaiah T. Montgomery House, Mississippi (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2017 $284,000
Isaiah T. Montgomery was born into slavery and, after the Civil War, helped to establish the all-black community of Mound Bayo, MS, and fought to secure protections for African Americans under the law. In 2018, the building was included on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. The Mississippi Heritage Trust will use the NPS grant to stabilize and rehabilitate the home.

Mountain View Officers’ Club, Arizona (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2017 $500,000
The Arizona Department of Parks will use this grant to restore the building’s exterior and key elements of the Dance Hall to their 1942 appearance. Currently vacant, the goal is to reopen the building as a multipurpose community center.

Amelia Boynton Residence, Alabama (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2018 $500,000
1315 Lapsley Street in Selma, AL, played an important role in the African American struggle for civil rights in the 20th century. Booker T. Washington was the first owner of the home, followed by the Boynton family, who used the house as an informal gathering spot for civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Ambassador Andrew Young, and Diane Nash. The home is named for Amelia Boynton Robinson, a celebrated activist who fought for voting rights in Selma. The grant will be used to rehabilitate the dilapidated house and transform it into a public space that will interpret the role that Selma and its residents played in the Civil Rights Movement.

The African-American Civil Rights and Women’s Suffrage Experience in NY, New York (Survey)
FY 2018 $50,000
The City of Mount Vernon received a grant that will help them identify, evaluate, and nominate historic sites, events, locations, and people that tell the stories of women’s struggle for suffrage and African Americans’ struggles for civil rights in the area.

Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, Oregon (Bricks and Mortar)
FY 2018 $350,000
Funding from the NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Fund for Sacred Spaces program will allow the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church congregation to restore the church and renovate community spaces, install energy-efficient equipment, and improve accessibility. The church played a leading role in the region during the Civil Rights Movement and is one of the last remaining landmarks of the black community that once thrived in that area.

For additional information, contact Christine Grubbs, Associate Manager of Government Relations, CGrubbs@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6115.