



Paulsdale, the childhood home of suffragist Alice Paul and the current headquarters of the Alice Paul Institute, received \$302,950 from the History of Equal Rights grant program. The funds will go to structural stabilization and improvements to the house's exterior.

PHOTO COURTESY ALICE PAUL INSTITUTE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Civil Rights Grant Programs

The African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program funds the preservation of the sites and stories associated with the African American struggle for equal rights. Building upon the success of the AACR program, the FY 2020 appropriations bill created a new competitive grant program to protect the sites important in securing civil rights for all Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans. The National Park Service has renamed the Civil Rights for All Americans Grant Program to the “History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program.”

Background

Between FY 2016 and FY 2019, Congress appropriated \$48.5 million to the AACR Grant Program, supporting 185

documentation, survey, planning, education, interpretation, and bricks and mortar preservation projects. Significantly, 87% of awarded funds, totaling approximately \$40.9 million, supported bricks and mortar, job-creating projects. The FY 2020 funding round expanded the scope of the program from projects solely related to the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century to sites associated with the African American struggle for equal rights from the transatlantic slave trade onwards.

HER grants fund a broad range of preservation projects for historic sites, including architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and physical preservation of structures. The first round of recipients was announced in June 2021.

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$24 million for African American Civil Rights Grants and \$5 million for History of Equal Rights Grants in the FY 2023 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 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$15.50 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$16.75 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$21.750 million
FY 2023 President’s Budget Request:	\$21.750 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$24.000 million

History of Equal Rights 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:	\$2.500 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$3.375 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$4.625 million
FY 2023 President’s Budget Request:	\$3.375 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$5.000 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding for the expanded African American Civil Rights Grant Program would better protect and interpret important places associated with the African American struggle for equal rights while creating well-paying, preservation-related jobs and investment in local communities. Increased funding for the History of Equal Rights Grants will promote a more inclusive narrative for the work to achieve the civil rights for all Americans through identification and protection of noteworthy places of our shared history.

Civil Rights Grant Programs: Highlighted Projects

Greenwood Center Buildings in Historic “Black Wall Street,” Oklahoma

AACR FY 2019 \$500,000

The Greenwood Community Development Corporation will use this grant to add new roofs and make other important repairs and improvements to 10 buildings comprising the Greenwood Center. This block is all that remains of Black Wall Street, at one time the greatest thriving African American business community in the United States that was destroyed during the 1921 Tulsa race massacre.

Lowndesboro School, Alabama

AACR FY 2020 \$236,313

The Lowndesboro School was founded by a formerly enslaved man in 1868. The school is the only extant example of a 19th century rural school for African American youth in Alabama. The Elmore Bolling Initiative received \$236,313 for the preservation and restoration of the school in FY 2020. The Initiative is named in honor of Bolling who was lynched and whose children attended the school. The goal is to turn the site into a space that celebrates the achievements of African Americans throughout the history of Lowndes County.

Paulsdale, New Jersey

HER FY 2020 \$302,950

Paulsdale, the childhood home of suffragist Alice Paul and the current headquarters of the Alice Paul Institute, received \$302,950 from the History of Equal Rights grant program. Alice Paul authored the Equal

Rights Amendment, advocated for the passing of the 19th amendment, and fought tirelessly for gender equality in the United States. The funds will go to structural stabilization and improvements to the house's exterior. The house is New Jersey's only National Historic Landmark dedicated to a woman. It currently serves as a museum dedicated to the struggle for gender equality.

Summit Street Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Ohio

AACR FY 2019 \$500,000

Since the founding of YWCA Dayton in 1870, the organization has been on the forefront of promoting social movements from voting and civil rights to affordable housing and racial justice. In 1889, the YWCA Dayton was the first YWCA to open a branch for African American women and girls. One of the original buildings for African American women, the “West Side Y,” was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2019. Dayton nonprofit Early Visions will revitalize the historic property and re-purpose it as the Early Visions Purpose Center, dedicated to sharing women's history, especially the history of African American women in West Dayton, while providing responsive programs to advance the skills of resident girls and young women.

Historic Hamtramck Stadium, Michigan

AACR FY 2019 \$490,729

Hamtramck Stadium, one of the five remaining Negro League ballparks, was home to the Detroit Stars and the Detroit Wolves and hosted many great league

players such as Satchel Paige, Ty Cobb, Josh Gibson, and Turkey Stearnes. This grant will be used to rehabilitate the grandstands of this National Register property.

Peoria Tribal Cemetery, Oklahoma

HER FY 2020 \$447,262

The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma received \$447,262 for the rehabilitation and conservation of the Peoria Tribal Cemetery. The Peoria Tribe originally resided in lands bordering the Great Lakes and Mississippi River but were forcibly moved to Oklahoma in the 1830s. The Tribe established a cemetery in 1867 as a burial ground for their tribal leaders. Their original allotment of reservation land was incrementally reduced and by 1915 they retained no tribal lands. The cemetery is located in the northwest corner of the former reservation lands. The cemetery represents one of the only remaining physical resources of the Peoria Tribe and still serves as an active burial ground for tribal members.

The African-American Civil Rights and Women's Suffrage Experience in NY, New York

AACR 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

AACR 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 African American community that once thrived in that area.



The Lowndesboro School is a rare example of an 19th century school for rural African American youth built during the reconstruction period.

PHOTO COURTESY THE ELMORE BOLLING INITIATIVE