

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program provides competitive grants to revive historic properties in rural communities across America. Based upon the highly successful Vermont Village Revitalization Initiative, Congress created the new grant program in FY 2018 with an initial appropriation of \$5 million. The program, formerly known as the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, was renamed in honor of Paul Bruhn, the late executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Background

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants are designed to foster economic development while preserving the history of rural communities by awarding grants to rehabilitate historic properties of significance in areas defined as rural by the U.S. Census (population less than 50,000). Under the program, states, Tribes, Certified Local Governments, or non-profits can receive funds that are then sub-granted to eligible properties for preservation projects at National Register Historic Sites. All of the awarded projects are bricks and mortar, job-creating projects, including architectural and engineering services and physical building preservation.



A certified local government and a Main Street West Virginia Community, Wheeling, West Virginia boasts a historic Centre Market District that contains unique shopping, dining, and entertainment options. Wheeling Heritage, a nonprofit dedicated to the revitalization of Wheeling, manages the Wheeling National Heritage Area and recently was awarded a \$750,000 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant to create a Historic Revitalization Sub-Grant Program.

PHOTO BY BEN MULDROW

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$12 million for the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

ACTIVITY: Historic Revitalization Grants

Recent Funding History:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| FY 2020 Enacted Funding: | \$7.5 million |
| FY 2021 Enacted Funding: | \$7.5 million |
| FY 2022 Enacted Funding: | \$10.0 million |
| FY 2023 President's Budget Request: | \$10.0 million |
| FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation: | \$12.0 million |

JUSTIFICATION: Historic revitalization grants invest in preserving the unique cultures of the nation's rural communities, fostering economic development and creating jobs.

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program

In its first three years of funding, the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program provided \$17 million in grants to 28 organizations that support the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities across the United States.

ALASKA

Historic Rehabilitation of National Register Properties in Sitka
FY 2018 \$238,033

FLORIDA

Revitalization of Historic Houses on the Campus of the Florida Chautauqua
FY 2020 \$217,000

IOWA

Iowa's Rural Heritage Revitalization Project
FY 2019 \$600,000

KANSAS

Kansas Rural Preservation Grants
FY 2019 \$500,000

LOUISIANA

Rehabilitation of Commercial Structures in Louisiana's Main Street District
FY 2018 \$662,000
FY 2020 \$749,000

MICHIGAN

Resilient Lakeshore Heritage Subgrant Program
FY 2020 \$750,000

MAINE

RevitalizeME
FY 2018 \$750,000
FY 2020 \$750,000

NEW YORK

Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program
FY 2019 \$750,000

NORTH CAROLINA

Downtown Salisbury Historic Revitalization Incentive Grants
FY 2019 \$543,185

OHIO

Historic Revitalization Grant Program for Rural Ohio Main Street Communities
FY 2019 \$556,327
Appalachian Region Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
FY 2020 \$750,000

TEXAS

Texas Rural African-American Heritage Grants Program
FY 2020 \$750,000

UTAH

Utah Rural Main Street Revitalization Program
FY 2020 \$675,000

VERMONT

Historic Restoration Subgrant Program of Vermont
FY 2018 \$747,000
Bruhn Village Revitalization Grant Program of Vermont
FY 2019 \$745,000
FY 2020 \$659,000

WASHINGTON

The Third Places Matter Fund
FY 2019 \$750,000
FY 2020 \$550,000

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
FY 2018 \$350,000
Wheeling Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
FY 2020 \$750,000

WYOMING

State of Wyoming Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
FY 2019 \$355,488



One of the inaugural recipients of the Paul Bruhn program, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, has awarded twenty-two subgrants during its three years of funding. Two of these grants supported implementation projects at Stone Valley Arts and the Sheldon Store.

TOP: Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill in Poultney, VT aims to inspire community interest and participation in the arts by offering a wide variety of educational and cultural programs and events. By integrating the arts into the fabric of the community, SVA can serve to enrich the quality of life in the region and add to the economic activity of the area. Their \$100,000 grant will support roof replacement.

BOTTOM: The Sheldon Store has been a part of Rupert's community and history since it was first opened as the Farmers' Exchange and the Grange Hall in the late 1800's. The building is still intact and holds most of its original characteristics and fixtures. Bringing it back to life as a community center and café will make it possible to showcase this history to the community and visitors alike. Their \$100,000 grant will support structural and roof repairs on the main building and porch.

PHOTOS COURTESY PRESERVATION TRUST OF VERMONT