

Funding & Grant Resources

For Historic Preservation in Montana



Generating funds for your preservation project can often be the most daunting step in achieving your goal of a restored building. The Preserve Montana staff have compiled the list below to get you started. We would be happy to have a discussion with you about which grants the best suit the needs of your project.

State Programs

Montana Historical Society

State Historic Preservation Office: The Montana SHPO receives annual funding from the federal Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service. SHPO provides technical support and facilitates a variety of financial and tax incentives to encourage rehabilitation of historic buildings. When funding allows, SHPO also offers Brick and Mortar grants. These are infrequent due to funding levels. However, in recent years SHPO has offered small grants for barn preservation, matched 1:1, through cash or in-kind contributions.

Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credits: Montana's state agency that encourages the preservation of historic places. MT SHPO offers technical assistance and information on how to apply and qualify for federal and state historic preservation investment tax credits. Periodically they also have grant funding

Website: <https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo>

Mailing Address: 225 North Roberts, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201

Contact: Eric.Newcombe@mt.gov

Phone: 406-444-7717

Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC)

Montana Historic Preservation Grants for Museums and Historic Sites

The Montana Legislature passed the Montana Museums Act in 2019, to fund new facilities for the Montana Historical Society along with grants for historic preservation. The MDOC administers these funds, derived from a 1% addition to the MT Accommodations Tax. Funds are awarded on a biennial basis, after approval by the Legislature. Applications are due by Feb 28 in even numbered years.

Montana Tourism Grants

MT DoC funds tourism-related brick-and-mortar projects, such as construction costs associated with building new and/or rehabilitating older tourism and recreation attractions, historical sites or artifacts; costs associated with purchasing new and/or existing tourism and recreation attractions, historical sites or artifacts; and equipment purchased for tourism operations. Non-profit sponsors or local governments are eligible to apply. The funds are awarded on an annual basis through a competitive application process. Sponsors are required to invest \$1 for every \$2 in Tourism Grant funds received.

<http://www.travelmontana.mt.gov/ourprograms/TourismDevEd.asp>

MDoC, 301 S Park, Helena, MT (406) 444-2654

The MDOC provides resources for a wide array of project statewide. Follow the link below for a comprehensive look at all the current MDOC grants and awards.

Website: <https://mtfinanceonline.com/>

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Montana Main Street Program

The Montana Main Street program is housed in the MT DoC Small Business division. Main Street is a local revitalization using the preservation of historic communities as a centerpiece. The program offers a variety of resources and incentives, including construction grants.

Website: <https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet>

Mailing Address: Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Ave., P.O. Box 200523, Helena, MT 59620

Contact: Tash Wisemiller, Main Street Coordinator

Phone: 406-841-2756

Email: twisemiller@mt.gov

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund

Planning Project funding is awarded through Certified Regional Development Corporations and tribal governments to support economic development planning activities, including business improvement districts, central business district redevelopment, industrial development, feasibility studies, etc.

Website: <http://marketmt.com/BSTF>

Contact: Annmarie Robinson, ARobinson3@mt.gov

Phone: (406) 841-2250

City- County Historic Preservation Commissions

The local preservation commissions often can access grant funds through the MT State Historic Preservation Office. Check with your local program for possible grants.

Website: Use the following link to find your local preservation commission officer

<https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/shpo/docs/CLGcontacts.pdf>

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Montana's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a competitive grant program designed to help communities of less than 50,000 population with their greatest community development needs. Great Falls and Billings receive CDBG funds on an entitlement basis. Other communities compete for funds under the Small Cities Program administered by the Montana Department of Commerce. The program was established by the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All projects must principally benefit low and moderate-income persons and must be reviewed by SHPO. The basic categories for local community development projects are Economic Development, Housing, Public Facilities, and Planning Grants. The grant ceiling for housing or public facility projects is \$500,000, and \$15,000 for planning grants. *(For more frequent information of the CDGB grant opportunities we recommend subscribing to their email update list.)*

Website: <https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG>

Mailing Address: 301 S Park Avenue, PO Box 200523, Helena, MT 59620-0523

Contact: Gus Byrom, CDBG Program Manager

Phone: 406-841-2770

Email: gbyrom@mt.gov

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Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT)

MDOT administers the Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP), which funds projects under the National Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act. The Act provides that 10% of all surface transportation funds be used for enhancement projects including historic preservation. In Montana, funds are distributed to the counties, which then re-grant these dollars for local enhancement projects under the CTEP program. Applications will be taken by February 28 in the year preceding each legislative session.

Website: https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/active_projects.shtml

Mailing Address: Montana Department of Transportation, PO Box 201001, Helena MT 59620-1001

Phone: 406-444-6200

Tax Increment Financing

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is an economic development tool used to finance public infrastructure and stimulate private development within designated urban renewal areas (URA). Local governments in Montana to build partnerships with the private sector, and implement plans that revitalize specific areas within their communities must adopt URAs. TIF can fund capital improvements such as parks, streets, and transit systems that attract private investment, businesses, jobs, and residents. See:

Website: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/toolkit/m1/ftools/fd/tifd.shtml>

Montana Arts Council

Montana Cultural Trust The state makes grants to cultural and aesthetic projects from interest earned in the investment of coal tax revenues in the Cultural Trust. Funds are available in operations, capital, special projects and endowment development categories for historic preservation activities. Applications are reviewed biannually by the Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Advisory Committee and approved by the Montana Legislature. Applications are due August 1 prior to the legislative session. Eligible applicants include local government and non-profit entities, state colleges and universities and Indian Tribes.

General Inquiry:

Website: <https://art.mt.gov/sig>

Mailing Address: Montana Arts Council, 830 N. Warren Street,
P.O. Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201

Email: mac@mt.gov

Phone: 406-444-6430

Montana Cultural Trust: National Endowment for the Arts

The Montana Arts Council also administers re-grant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Funds may be used for cultural resources planning, to sponsor activities related to arts and culture

Website: <https://www.arts.gov/>

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Resource Indemnity Trust

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation makes grants from the Resource Indemnity Trust Fund every two years. Grants are reviewed by the DNRC and then referred to the Legislature for approval. Funds for this program come from severance taxes associated with mining activity in the state. Historic preservation projects that emphasize renewable resource management and community development are eligible. Applicants must be a unit of state government, such as a municipality, or an Indian Tribe.

Website: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans>

Contact: Find your local office and contact info at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/contact-dnrc>

State Board of Investments

The Board of Investments' INTERCAP Program is a low cost, variable-rate program that lends money to Montana local governments for financing or refinancing the acquisition and installation of equipment or personal and real property and infrastructure improvements. The Board of Investments (BOI) Bond Program Office administers the program, issuing tax-exempt bonds and loans the proceeds to eligible borrowers. In addition to long-term financing, INTERCAP is an excellent source for interim financing.

Political subdivisions of state or local governments are eligible to apply; eligible projects include real property improvements, preliminary engineering, and grant writing work, interim financing for construction or cash-flow loans, and energy retrofit projects. Maximum loan amount per project depends on borrower's legal debt authority. The loan term can be 10 years or the useful life of the project, whichever is less. Money is always available, there is no funding cycle and funds are released on an ongoing basis as the project is completed.

Website: <https://investmentmt.com/INTERCAP>

Mailing Address: 2401 Colonial Dr. 3rd Floor, PO Box 200126, Helena, MT 59620-0126

Phone: 406-444-0001

Federal Programs

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service (NPS)

Save America's Treasures

The Federal Save America's Treasures grants program began in 1999 and helps preserve nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey our nation's rich heritage to future generations of Americans. Grant availability varies by year and current legislation.

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/sat/>

NHL Challenge Cost Share

The NHL Challenge Cost Share program funds projects that encourage the preservation of National Historic Landmarks throughout the country. Funding ranges from \$3,000 to \$30,000 per project. Must be matched dollar-for-dollar, cash or in-kind. Government entities and non-profits are eligible to apply.

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1837/index.htm>

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Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The **Bureau of Land Management** provides a Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) program which result in partnerships between local communities and the BLM to improve cultural, natural and recreational resources on or adjacent to BLM Lands. Fund allocation follows the federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30).

Website: <https://www.blm.gov/services/financial-assistance-and-grants>

Contact: Visit this page to find your local BLM Office, <https://www.blm.gov/office/national-office>

U.S. Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration, (EDA)

The EDA provides funds for technical assistance, planning and the development of projects that result in the creation of new employment. Technical assistance grants usually average about \$25,000 and require a small cash match. Capital grants and revolving loan funds are available on a 50/50 matching basis and vary in size from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars. EDA funds may be applied to economic development projects that make use of historic resources. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) must review projects for compliance under the NHPA.

Website: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Contact: EDA Montana Office, Federal Building, Helena, (406) 449-5074

Economic Development – Planning and Development Assistance Grants

To help provide administrative aid to multi-county Economic Development Districts, Redevelopment Areas and Indian Tribes to establish and maintain economic development planning and implementation capability and thereby promote effective utilization of resources in the creation of full-time permanent jobs for the unemployed and the underemployed in areas of high distress.

Website: <https://www.eda.gov/resources/economic-development-directory/states/mt.htm>

Economic Development – Technical Assistance

To promote economic development and alleviate under- and unemployment in distressed areas, EDA offers technical assistance. The program provides funds to (1) enlist the resources of designated university centers in promoting economic development; (2) support innovative economic development projects; (3) disseminate information and studies of economic development issues of national significance; (4) finance feasibility studies and other projects leading to local economic development.

Website: www.federalgrantswire.com/economic-developmenttechnical-assistance.html

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)

The USDA offers a number of programs in the area of rural community development. Of particular interest, RBOGs promote economic development in rural communities by supporting training and technical assistance for business development and regional economic development planning. They also award grants for construction and building improvements. Local governments, economic development organizations, nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, and rural cooperatives are eligible to apply. The maximum grant amount is \$100,000. Further information can be obtained at:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/mt>

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Contact: Rural and Coop Development Specialist, Montana USDA State Office, 900 Technology Park, Bozeman, MT 59701
Phone: 406-585-2545

Farmers Home Administration

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers a number of programs in the area of rural community development.

Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

Contact: Use the following link to locate and contact your local office, <https://tinyurl.com/y6e87msk>

Federal Forest Funds (PILT)

Under the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000," counties in Montana receive significant federal funding. In FY 2016, Lincoln County received \$635,059. County commissioners in each county have jurisdiction over how these funds are allocated. Under the Congressional funding formula, these funds are primarily applied to school improvements and road repairs; however, economic development efforts can also qualify for these funds. Often referred to as PILT (payment in lieu of taxes), these funds have diminished over time and many counties rely upon these funds to pay for essential services and operations.

Website: <https://www.doi.gov/pilt>

RUS Loan and Grant Program

The Rural Utilities Services (RUS) provides loan and grant monies to RUS borrowers (local Rural Electric Cooperatives [RECs]) for re-lending to projects promoting rural economic development and job creation. Local RECs may use the proceeds of these loans and grants to fund diverse projects including public building renovation. For more information:

Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-utilities-service>

Contact: Charles Robinson

Mailing Address: 2229 Boot Hill Court, Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone: 406-585-2580

Non-Governmental Organizations

Preserve Montana (PMT)

The Preserve Montana (PMT) is the Montana's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization. PMT champions the preservation of the state's unique heritage and historic places, through advocacy, education, and technical assistance. In recent years, PMT has helped to secure grant funding to assist historic preservation projects; in addition, the staff and board members act as a clearinghouse to direct Montanans toward potential sources of funding and technical support.

Website: <http://www.preservemontana.org/>

Mailing Address: 316 Fuller Ave., PO Box 101, Helena, MT 59624

Contact: Chere Jiusto chere@preservemontana.org

Phone: 406-457-2822

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The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) provides funding for historic preservation projects in a number of categories. Funds for NTHP programs derive from Trust memberships, charitable contributions and Congressional appropriation through the National Historic Preservation Fund.

Website: www.nthp.org

Mailing Address: NTHP Mountain/Plains Office, 535 16th St., Suite 750, Denver CO 80202

Phone: (303) 623-1504

National Preservation Loan Fund (NPLF)

The NPLF promotes the revitalization of commercial and industrial centers, the conservation of neighborhoods and rural communities, and the preservation of archaeological and maritime resources. Through the NPLF, the Trust provides financial and technical assistance to help preserve historic resources as well as strengthen the real estate development capabilities of recipient organizations. The Fund provides non-profit organizations and public agencies with low-interest loans, loan guarantees and lines of credit to help establish or expand local and statewide revolving funds and loan pools, and to undertake development projects involving historic buildings, sites and districts. The Fund also offers assistance for National Historic Landmarks (NHL) or properties that meet NHL criteria.

Preservation Services Fund (PSF)

PSF grants are intended to increase the flow of information and ideas in the field of preservation. They help stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for particular projects, introduce students to preservation concepts, and encourage participation by the private sector in preservation. Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations or public agencies and members of the NTHP Forum program. Maximum awards are \$5,000 and all grants must be matched on a dollar for dollar basis, using primarily cash contributions.

Johanna Favrot Fund

This fund was established in 1994 to save historic environments across the U.S. and foster appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage, and to preserve and revitalize the nation's communities. Eligible activities include hiring consultants in architecture, planning, economics, archaeology, fund raising, media relations, education, graphic design, organizational strengthening; sponsoring conferences and workshops; designing education programs. Application deadline is February 1.

Modernism + Recent Past Program

This newly-established grant program awards up to \$7,000 to support the preservation of historic places associated with the Modern design movement or dating from the recent past, i.e. less than 50 years old. Activities eligible for funding include historic preservation planning, research, education, outreach, survey and designation efforts, and capital improvements to historic resources. No match is required. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with determinations made within 30 days of receipt. Please send a letter of interest describing the project, total budget and amount requested to TrustModern, attention Director Christine Madrid French at trustmodern@nthp.org

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Montana History Foundation Grants

The Montana History Foundation offers grants for up to \$10,000 for projects that preserve, restore, and interpret Montana's rich and important past. MHF funds projects in five categories: Buildings & Structures, Historic Cemeteries & Sacred Sites, Collections & Artifacts, Oral Histories, and Education & Outreach. MHF places an emphasis on heritage resources that are threatened or at risk, including bricks and mortar projects, preservation of fragile or damaged artifacts, and oral histories with elderly subjects. We also fund proposals that support ethnic and geographic diversity in Montana and projects that address important, unmet needs. Grant cycle opens in November every year with due date in early January. A 25% cash or in-kind organizational match is required.

History Emergencies!

History Emergencies! provides funding to restore, conserve or repair historic resources that are a direct benefit to the community and in imminent danger. Awards of up to \$7,500 are available and require a 50% cash or in-kind organizational match.

Website: www.montanahistoryfoundation.org

Mailing Address: MHF, 1750 North Montana Street, Helena, MT 59601

Contact: Kate McCourt, kate@mthistory.org

Phone: 406-449-3770

Montana Community Foundation

The Montana Community Foundation (MCF) is a steward through which private assets entrusted by donors are invested to meet the challenges of contemporary life. MCF seeks to protect and enhance the unique resources of Montana - its people and their needs, its diversity of culture, its richness of artistic creation and appreciation, and the beauty and quality of its land, air and water - so that these resources may be enjoyed now and in the future. For more information:

Website: <http://www.mtcf.org>

Mailing Address: MCF, 101 N Last Chance Gulch, Suite 211, Helena, MT 59601

Phone: 406-443-8313; fax: 406-442-0482

Jerry Metcalf Foundation

This foundation honors Jerry Metcalf and celebrates his life and his abiding love of Montana. He deeply appreciated Montana's history, culture, arts, and the environment. The Jerry Metcalf Foundation awards grants to individuals and groups working to enhance Montana's natural environment and diverse communities. The Foundation supports: The visual, performing, and literary arts; historical research and preservation; environmental research and conservation; and education and community health. Letters of Inquiry are due every year by March 15. For more information:

Website: <http://www.jerrymetcalfmontana.org/>

Mailing Address: Jerry Metcalf Foundation, P.O. Box 823, Helena, MT 59624

Email: info@jerrymetcalfmontana.org

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Steele-Reese Foundation

The Steele-Reese Foundation is a charitable trust committed to supporting rural communities and the nonprofit organizations that serve them in Idaho, Montana, and Kentucky. They support Rural Education, Rural Human/Social Services, Rural Conservation and Preservation, Rural Health, and Rural Arts and the Humanities. Letters of Inquiry are due each year in mid-December.

Website: http://steele-reese.org/idaho_montana_grant_program

Mailing Address: PO Box 8311, Missoula, MT 59807 406-207-7984

Contact: Linda Tracy, Western Director, linda@steele-reese.org

Phone: 406-207-7984

Your Local Area Community Foundation

Community Foundations hold funds and make grants on behalf of projects that strengthen communities and enrich the greater area. Check for the Community Foundation nearest you.

Northwestern Energy Community Grants

Northwestern Energy wants to make the communities it serves better places to live, work and prosper. They encourage qualified nonprofit organizations that operate within our service territory to apply for donations through the Northwestern Energy Charitable Giving program. Their local committees review requests year-round and determine funding.

Website: <http://www.northwesternenergy.com/community-works/community-works-fund>

Contact: <http://contactus.northwesternenergy.com/userforms/economicdevelopment>

The Orton Foundation

The Orton Family Foundation empowers people to shape the future of their communities by improving local decision-making, creating a shared sense of belonging, and ultimately strengthening the social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of each place. They assist residents of small cities and towns in the use of the Heart & Soul method, a barn-raising approach to community planning and development designed to increase participation in local decision-making and empower residents to shape the future of their communities in a way that upholds the unique character of each place.

Website: <https://www.orton.org/>

Mailing Address: The Orton Foundation Rocky Mountain Office, 8795 Ralston Road, Suite 100, Arvada, CO 80002

Contact: programs@orton.org

Phone: 802-495-0864

Wells Fargo Community Investment Programs

Wells Fargo supports organizations that keep communities strong, diverse, and vibrant, with contributions primarily directed to Community Development, Education and Human Services.

Website: www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/montana-grant-guidelines/

Contact: Katie Rollyson, Wells Fargo Community Affairs, katie.m.rollyson@wellsfargo.com

Volunteer and Training Programs

Montana Conservation Corps

MCC is a non-profit organization that empowers youth and young adults through hands-on conservation service and education. Each season they enroll over 200 young adults from across the US, age 18 and up, in the AmeriCorps program, and more than 100 local teens, ages 15-17, in their Youth Service Expedition program.

Website: <https://mtcorps.org/>

Mailing Address: MCC, 206 N. Grand, Bozeman, MT 59715

Contact: Lee Gault, mcc@mtcorps.org

Phone: 406-587-4475