



America250MI History Grant Program Booklet

America250MI is Michigan's statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the American Revolution's role in Michigan's history and the impact that these, and various historical events, had on the people of Michigan's past, present and future.

The History Grant Program is an investment in Michigan's history and an opportunity for history organizations, communities and local government to work together to explore and preserve their history. Awarded projects will help preserve Michigan's stories that can guide us over the next 250 years.

Round 1: \$1,000,000

- Application Open: March 1, 2025
- Application Deadline: April 15, 2025
- Recipient Announcement: June 1-15, 2025

Round 2: \$1,000,000

- Application Open: November 1, 2025
- Application Deadline: January 15, 2026
- Recipient Announcement: March 1-15, 2026

Applicant Eligibility

- Organizations whose primary function is history or preservation or organizations partnering with an organization whose primary function is history or preservation.
- Organizations must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit, local units of government (tribal, city, village or township) or have a similar fiscal agent.
- An eligible financial match of 30% is required for grants of \$25,001-\$50,000 and 15% is required for grants of \$5,001-\$25,000. No match is required for grants of \$2,500-\$5,000.
- Applicants who were not funded in round one.

- All applicants must have a SIGMA ID number to apply. To register for SIGMA Vendor Self Service visit: [AdvantageVSS - SIGMA VSS](#)

Project Eligibility

- Projects must interpret, preserve or explore Michigan's rich and diverse history.
- Projects must have a lasting impact and enduring value.
- Projects must focus on one or more of America250MI's five guiding themes.
- Collaborative partnerships with traditionally underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged.
- Funds may be used for activities such as, but not limited to, planning, research, education, collections management, programs, exhibits, interpretive signage, digital, capital improvements, publications, preservation, technology/software and access.

Ineligible projects

- Projects not related to Michigan history
- Land acquisitions
- Projects without an external focus
- Purchasing collections
- Parades, ribbon cutting
- Fundraising events

Financial Details

- Tier 3: \$25,001-\$50,000, with a 30% match
- Tier 2: \$5,001-\$25,000, with a 15% match
- Tier 1: \$2,500-\$5,000, no match required

Tier 3 will comprise no more than 50% of funded projects.

Matching funds

Eligible cash match may include partial cost of grant-funded items, separate contracts, purchase of equipment or supplies required to project completion.

Existing staff salaries, volunteer hours or in-kind donations cannot count towards match.

Eligible Costs

- If a project is selected for funding, the grantee's eligible expenses include costs related to project completion.
- All grant funds are reimbursements.

- Grant funds will be paid in disbursements tied to grant deliverables. The reporting dates will be provided at the time that the grant agreement is signed and will be tied to your application timeline summary and established benchmarks.
- Expenses incurred prior to project timeline will not be eligible.
- Round 1 grant cycle will only cover expenses beginning on June 1, 2025 and ending on May 30, 2026. Round 2 grant cycle will only cover expenses beginning on March 1, 2026 and ending on December 30, 2026. Fundable projects may be associated with, or part of an established project started at an earlier date.
- Grantees will provide adequate documentation of expenses, including all applicable copies of invoices, checks, payment sheets, change orders, documentation of labor and equipment, and documentation of donated labor and/or materials.
- Until final completion of the project, 10% of the grant will be withheld for Tier 2 and 3.

Ineligible costs

- Maintenance outside of the grant period
- Tuition and fees, conferences, travel, lodging, meals, group meals and mileage unrelated to project completion
- Costs incurred outside project timeline
- Salaries/fringes of individuals not working on the project directly
- Food, alcohol, parties, parades, ribbon cuttings, receptions

Project Considerations

Successful applications will show how their project will address the following areas in their application narrative:

America250MI Themes: Projects that tell Michigan history through one or more of the America250MI themes; Unfinished Revolutions, Power of Place, We the People, American Experiment and Doing History. To learn more about the America250MI themes and review the program guide visit <https://www.america250mi.org/guide>.

Impact and Enduring Value: Projects should have a lasting impact and enduring value for the public. Grantees can illustrate impact by showing clear goals for the project, how the project might affect your organization or community and how it expands our understanding of Michigan history. These projects should be outwardly focused with clear measurements for success. Grantees should identify the intended lifespan of the project and maintenance plan if needed.

Collaboration: Projects should include partners wherever possible and bring together stakeholders from across your community. Collaboration is especially important when telling new or underrepresented stories. Grantees should engage these communities in the design, development and implementation of projects with clear roles and deliverables for

each partner. Building and deepening relationships with these community stakeholders should be central to collaborative projects.

Audience Access: Projects should demonstrate a commitment to broadening access and accessibility. Organizations should cultivate a welcoming environment. Access includes activities and standards related to the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure everyone can participate regardless of ability. Access also includes creating multiple avenues for participation of the public, including free days or digital elements.

Project Completion: Receiving grant assistance requires the project be completed in a timely manner. The grantee must begin the project as soon as the grant agreement is executed. Projects should have clear and specific deliverables that are accomplishable within the project timeline and organization's capacity. Grantees will provide all required documentation and reporting at the end of the grant period.

Application Scoring

- Relevance of project to the five America250MI themes (30%)
- Demonstrated ability to complete project (30%)
- Outcomes, Impact and Access (20%)
- Partnerships and collaboration (10%)
- Originality and quality (5%)
- Budget (5%)

Application Requirements

- Project Title, Request Amount, SIGMA ID, Applicant information, Applicant Sponsor (if applicable)
- Narrative details part one (project description, scope, timeline and impact)
- Narrative details part two (connection to America250MI themes, partner collaborations, access)
- Communications Plan
- Budget and Tier 2 and Tier 3 Match Details
- IRS Determination Letter
- Additional information

Contact Information

- America250MI
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Office Hours:

March 1, 2026 - April 15, 2026

Mondays 8 A.M. – 9 A.M.

Wednesdays 4 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Fridays 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.