



2017 Heritage Partnership Grant Program Pre-Application Overview

The amount available for EMHR's grant program is dependent on the state budget allocated to the Heritage Areas Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Every year, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) solicits funding requests from local and regional non-profit and governmental organizations for projects that advance the Heritage Region's Mission. Eligible projects and programs are those that support heritage tourism, historic preservation, outdoor recreation, education and interpretation of heritage resources, and scenic landscapes or byways in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties. Selected projects will be included in EMHR's 2017 annual request for state Heritage Areas Program funding through Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Heritage Region Partnership Mission

To protect, improve and promote the unique heritage of the Endless Mountains, our cultural landscape of agriculture, historic towns, natural landscapes, and the stories of the people who have lived here for generations.

We work in partnership with local and regional organizations to develop projects that strengthen community identity, enhance heritage and outdoor recreational venues, and offer visitors an authentic experience of the Endless Mountains.

EMHR will solicit pre-applications through December 23, 2016. Forms can be downloaded via www.emheritage.org, where additional instructions are easily accessible. Non-profit organizations, municipalities and units of government interested in planning and implementing projects that serve heritage development, historic preservation, or resource conservation/enhancement goals are encouraged to apply. Employing a 50/50 match requirement, EMHR is able to provide funding to project partners throughout the four-county region. EMHR typically funds six to ten projects with grants that range from \$1000 to \$25,000. The final amount and number of projects funded will depend on the applications received and the state's funding allocation for heritage areas in the 2017-2018 budget. Note that grant-funding is only available to projects that begin in 2018.

2017 Grant Round Timeline

November – December 23, 2016

EMHR solicits for grants from project partners

January 2017 EMHR Project Review Committee reviews applications, compiles questions and requests additional information as needed

February 2017 Project Partner presentations

April 2017 Notice from EMHR if application was included in the DCNR application

October 2017 – January 2018

Grant notice from DCNR (dependent on state budget 2017/2018)

January 2018 Sub-Agreements from EMHR and notice to proceed

Eligible Projects Overview

Successful applicants in the past have received funding for the restoration of historic buildings, enhancing pedestrian access to heritage areas, trail development, and signage and development of interpretive sites. EMHR has administered such grants since 1998 with the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation under the umbrella of the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program.

Applications receiving the most attention will be those matching EMHR's Strategic Plan Priorities below, which include interpretive and educational projects, heritage initiatives that spur economic development; identification of and enhancements to tourist and recreation destinations, and projects in support of EMHR's agricultural theme, "Living with the Land."

The grant committee will also look favorably on efforts to develop interpretive materials, host programs such as walking tours and traveling exhibits, workshops, and lectures; document scenic and geological resources of the Endless Mountains; and identify and develop new heritage tourism destinations.

Community planning projects, such as feasibility studies for adaptive reuse of historic structures; comprehensive preservation and conservation plans; development of relevant training courses for municipal and business leaders; and partnerships that foster entrepreneurial potential and identify heritage-related small business opportunities, are also of great importance to Heritage Region.

EMHR Strategic Plan Priorities – 2017/ 2018

Grant applicants are encouraged to identify projects that achieve one or more of the following five objectives. Applicants are not limited to the examples given, but should consider how proposed projects help to advance the Heritage Region as a destination and provide authentic experiences of our historic region to visitors and residents.

1. **Establish a strong identity and "Brand" for the Heritage Region**
 - Examples – Visitor destination outreach, exhibits, brochures, wayfinding signs
2. **Tell the Heritage Story**
 - Examples - Develop and communicate Heritage Region's stories through interpretive signs, speaker programs, special events
3. **Identify and Protect Heritage Assets**
 - Examples - Inventory and/ or development of historic districts, landmark buildings, viewsheds
4. **Facilitate New Heritage and Outdoor Recreation Sites & Events**
 - Examples – Hold events promoting the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail; Agri-Tourism initiatives; driving/biking/walking tours and itineraries, feasibility studies
5. **Build Partnerships to Protect, Improve & Promote Heritage Tourism**
 - Examples – projects that bring together diverse constituencies for joint programs and initiatives, such as development of municipal heritage plans, River Town projects

Contact Information

For additional information not found at www.emheritage.org interested readers may contact Hillary Robinson, Program Coordinator at 570-265-1528 or send an email to hrobinson@emheritage.org.