

FY 2018 Grant Announcement (Full Proposals):

ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS – Major Initiatives

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the National Archives, supports projects that promote access to America’s historical records to encourage understanding of our democracy, history, and culture.

The following information is only for applicants invited to submit full proposals to the Access to Historical Records – Major Initiatives program. For more information about how to become an invited applicant, please see the *Preliminary Proposal* announcement (link).

Funding Opportunity Number: MAJOR-201707

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 89.003

- Full Proposal Deadline: **July 12, 2017**

NHPRC support begins no earlier than **January 1, 2018**.

Grant Program Description

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that will significantly improve public discovery and use of major historical records collections. All types of historical records are eligible, including documents, photographs, born-digital records, and analog audio and moving images. Projects may:

- Digitize historical records collections, or related collections, held by a single institution and make them freely available online
- Provide access to born-digital records
- Create new freely-available virtual collections drawn from historical records held by multiple institutions
- Create new tools and methods for users to access records

The NHPRC welcomes collaborative projects, particularly for bringing together related records from multiple institutions. Projects that address significant needs in the field and result in replicable and scalable approaches will be more competitive. We also encourage organizations to actively engage the public in the work of the project.

For a comprehensive list of Commission limitations on funding, please see “What we do and do not fund” (<http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/apply/eligibility.html>). Applications that consist entirely of ineligible activities will not be considered.

Award Information

A grant is for one to three years and for up to \$350,000. We expect to make up to five grants in this category for a total of up to \$1,000,000. Grants begin no earlier than **January 1, 2018**.

Eligible applicants:

- Nonprofit organizations or institutions
- Colleges, universities, and other academic institutions
- State or local government agencies
- Federally-acknowledged or state-recognized Native American tribes or groups

Cost Sharing

The total costs of a project are shared between the NHPRC and the applicant organization. The Commission provides no more than 50 per cent of total project costs in the Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives category. NHPRC grant recipients are not permitted to use grant funds for indirect costs (as indicated in 2 CFR 2600.101).

Cost sharing is required. The applicant’s financial contribution may include both direct and indirect expenses, in-kind contributions, non-Federal third-party contributions, and any income earned directly by the project. Indirect costs must be listed under the applicant’s cost sharing contribution.

Other Requirements

Applicant organizations must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting an application, maintain SAM registration throughout the application and award process, and include a valid DUNS number in their application. Details on SAM registration and requesting a DUNS number can be found at the System for Award Management website at <http://sam.gov>. Please refer to the *User Guides* section and the Grants Registrations PDF.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

You must use Grants.gov to submit a Full Proposal. All information necessary to apply is included in this announcement, the [Application Instructions](#), and the forms on Grants.gov. If you need the information supplied in an alternative format, please call the NHPRC at 202-357-5010.

Applying for the **Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives** program is a two-phase process.

Phase One

All applicants must have submitted a five-page preliminary proposal and Application for Federal Domestic Assistance – Short Organizational form SF424 and the Budget Information for Non-Construction Projects form SF424A by January 19, 2017 using the preliminary proposal Major Initiatives grant announcement (insert link).

Only those applicants who have successfully completed Phase One and who have been invited by the Commission to submit a full proposal to the Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives program are eligible to participate in the second phase of the process.

Phase Two

Using this announcement, invited applicants will prepare and submit a complete application via Grants.gov by July 12, 2017. A complete application includes the Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424), Assurances -- Non-Construction Programs (Standard Form 424B), a *Project Narrative*, *Supplementary Materials*, and *Budget*. Applications lacking any of these items will not be considered.

Applicants may consult with the Director of the Access Program, Alex Lorch (alexander.lorch@nara.gov) during both the preliminary and full proposal project phases.

In order to ensure eligibility, applicants should first review the rules and regulations governing NHPRC grants under the [Administering an NHPRC Grant](#) section.

Project Narrative

The Project Narrative is a description of the proposal. It should be no more than 20 double-spaced pages in 12-pt type formatted for 8.5 x 11 inch paper with standard margins.

1. **Overview:** Provide an overview of the project and how it will improve public access to historical records. Describe in detail the collections and show how the records broaden public understanding of our democracy, history, and culture. Characterize the project's intended

audience and describe your efforts, where applicable, to actively engage the public in the work of the project.

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, and goals with an emphasis on its archival programs. Describe the nature and scope of your holdings and your access policies for public use of your holdings.

If you are collaborating with other institutions to create a new virtual collection drawn from historical records held by multiple institutions, describe your partners and their commitments to the project, and the reasons for unifying collections.

If you are planning to create new tools and methods for users, describe how they will mark an advancement or enhancement of current archival practices. The Commission is especially interested in new APIs (application program interfaces) and Open Access principles to encourage re-use of collections.

2. **Description of Collections:** Describe the materials that will be made accessible. This should include the quantity in cubic or linear feet for analog materials, in files and bytes for born-digital materials, and an estimate of the number of hours for audio and moving image materials. Detail the topical matters, formats, dates, and their historical significance. Provide evidence of the current research demand and explain how you expect this project to change usage levels.
 3. **Archival Methodologies:** Describe your processing and digitization methodologies or plans to innovate in these areas. Provide descriptions of your equipment and resources, metadata standards, and professional scanning practices. Specify cost estimates for digitized items. Detail the specific methods used for any preservation reformatting of audio or moving image materials. Outline your institution's long-term preservation plan (or provide a link to it online).
 4. **Project Products:** Describe and quantify the products you plan to produce for the completed project. This includes catalog records, finding aids, digitized items, electronic files, and related materials. This also includes any new tools and methods to be developed to enhance access to archival materials.
 5. **Project Publicity:** Describe how you will publicize the project and how you will share any new tools and methods with other institutions to encourage replication and adoption.
 6. **Plan of Work:** Provide evidence of planning and a realistic scope of work for the project. Describe each stage of the work plan and provide a time chart identifying the personnel required for each activity (in the supplemental materials).
-

7. **Staff Qualifications:** Provide a narrative explanation of the qualifications of the staff who will contribute to the success of this project. List the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the project director and other key personnel. Demonstrate that the project staff has the skills, educational background, and experience appropriate to the project. Explain the roles of all staff named in the project budget, both for those already on staff and for those to be hired. Include descriptions of collaborators, outside project advisors, reviewers, and evaluators. In the supplementary materials, provide a résumé of not more than two pages per person for all staff named in the project budget. For those staff or consultants to be hired for the project, provide position descriptions or call for consultants.
8. **Performance Objectives:** List six to eight quantifiable performance objectives that will allow you and the Commission to evaluate the project as you submit interim and final reports. Performance objectives might include the number or volume of collections processed or described, the number of items digitized, types of new procedures put in place to expedite access to collections, and the number and type of outreach events.

Supplementary Materials

Submit no more than 20 pages of Supplementary Materials:

- Brief résumés of named staff members (please use institutional addresses and phone numbers and limit to two pages per staff member)
- Position descriptions or announcements for staff to be hired with grant funds
- Detailed work plan charts that supplement the Narrative
- Institution's preservation plan for digital materials
- Samples from existing finding aid(s) or indexes for selected materials
- Letters of support
- Statements of commitment to the project by partners

If these materials are available on a web site, please provide the URL(s).

Project Budget

You must submit a budget on the **NHPRC Budget Form** available on the Application Instructions page. Note that the form itself contains additional instructions. You may include with your application a narrative budget supplement for categories that require additional detail. Provide specific budget figures, rounding to the nearest dollar.

Applicants will be asked to compute the project costs to be charged to NHPRC Federal grant funds as well as those that will be supported by the applicant. The applicant's cost sharing includes both direct and indirect expenses, in-kind contributions, non-Federal third-party contributions, and any income earned directly by the project. All of the items listed, whether supported by grant funds or your cost-sharing contributions, must be reasonable and necessary to accomplish project objectives, allowable in terms of the applicable federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during the grant period. Applicants should review the appropriate [Office of Management and Budget](#) circulars on cost principles.

If the project expects program income, it should be allocated among specific budget categories on the cost-sharing column of the project budget. The total amount of expected program income should be reported on the NHPRC budget form under "Project Funding for Entire Grant Period." The same amount should appear on the Application for Federal Assistance, SF424, item 18f. Please use the narrative budget supplement to explain the calculation of the expected income and its allocation.

Charges to the project for items such as salaries, fringe benefits, travel, and contractual services must conform to the written policies and established practices of the applicant organization. In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have adequate accounting and timekeeping procedures to meet Federal requirements.

Budget Categories

In preparing the budget, please follow the suggestions below in each of the categories:

Salaries: List each staff position and compensation that will be charged to the project and show the percentage of time each staff member will devote to the project. Indicate which positions are to be filled for the proposed project and which personnel are already on the staff of the applicant institution. Grant funds may be used to pay the salaries of only those individuals actually working on the project. You may count the time provided to the project by advisory board members.

Fringe Benefits: Include employee benefits using your organization's standard rates. No separate benefits should be included for positions that are computed at a daily rate or using honoraria.

Consultant Fees: Include payments for consultant services and honoraria. Provide justification for large or unusual consultant fees. List consultant travel expenses in the "Travel" category.

Travel: Include transportation, lodging, and per diem expenses. The NHPRC does not fund staff travel to professional meetings unless the travel is essential to accomplish the goals of the project.

Supplies and Materials: Include routine office supplies and supplies ordinarily used in professional practices. Justify the cost of specialized materials and supplies in a supplemental budget narrative.

Services: Include the cost of duplication and printing, long-distance telephone, equipment leasing, postage, contracts with third parties, and other services that you are not including under other budget categories or as indirect-cost expenses. The costs of project activities to be undertaken by each third-party contractor should be included in this category as a single line item charge. Include a complete itemization of the costs in a supplemental budget narrative.

Other costs: Include costs for necessary equipment above \$5,000, stipends for participants in projects, and other items not included in previous grant categories. The NHPRC does not provide grant funds for the acquisition of routine equipment such as office furnishings, shelving, and file cabinets, but we may provide grant support for the purchase of technical equipment, such as software, computers and peripherals, essential for a project.

Indirect costs: As indicated in 2 CFR 2600.101, NHPRC grant recipients are not permitted to use grant funds for indirect costs; however, a grant recipient may use indirect costs for cost sharing.

Submission Dates and Times

- Full Proposal Deadline: **July 12, 2017**

Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov by midnight Eastern Time on the deadline date.

A funding decision will be made at the Commission's November 2017 meeting. NHPRC support begins no earlier than **January 1, 2018**.

Deadline Policy: Given that technical or administrative difficulties with Grants.gov may periodically delay the timely submission or receipt of applications, the Commission staff will make provisions for the receipt of such applications past the established deadline. Under these circumstances, applicants with technical or administrative issues related to Grants.gov must contact Jeff de la Concepcion (jeff.delaconcepcion@nara.gov 202-357-5022) as soon as possible but no later than by 3:00 PM Eastern Time on the application deadline. Applications that fail to meet deadlines for reasons other than those noted will not be considered for funding.

Proposal Review Information

The NHPRC staff will acknowledge receipt of the application soon after we receive it. The following evaluation criteria and weights will be used by NHPRC staff and peer reviewers to form recommendations:

Criteria for Full Proposals:

1. The potential of the historical records collections to broaden understanding of our democracy, history, and culture. *(30 percent)*
2. The project's strategies and techniques that will result in enhanced public access and engagement. *(30 percent)*
3. The project's ability to develop scalable and replicable tools and methods that address significant needs in the field *(25 percent)*
4. The ability to complete the project's objectives based on the qualifications of the staff, the inclusion of an appropriate work plan, and the reasonableness of the budget (including cost share). *(15 percent)*

Application Review Process

Your proposal will be reviewed by:

- *Peer Reviewers*
We will ask 7 to 10 external peer reviewers to evaluate the proposal.
- *The Commission*
After reviewing proposals, the Commission members deliberate and make funding recommendations to the Archivist of the United States, who has final statutory authority and selects award recipients. Throughout this process, all members of the Commission and its staff follow conflict-of-interest rules to assure fair and equal treatment of every application.

Award Administration Information

Notification

Grants are contingent upon available appropriated funds. In some cases, the Commission will adjust grant amounts depending upon the number of recommended proposals and total budget. The Commission may recommend that the Archivist approve the proposal and extend an offer of a grant with applicable terms and conditions, or it may recommend rejection of the proposal.

Grant applicants will be notified within two weeks after the Archivist's decision.

Successful applicants will receive an informal offer of award and be required to verify their acceptance of general terms and conditions, and complete a statement on their Financial Capability and Accounting Systems. Once these are received, reviewed and acceptable, the NHPRC will issue an official award notice.

Administrative Requirements

In order to ensure that you can manage a grant, applicants should review the Federal grant administration rules and regulations governing grants from the NHPRC listed in the [Administering an NHPRC Grant](#) section.

Reporting

In most cases, award recipients will report on their performance in narrative reports every six months and submit financial reports once a year.

Agency Contact

At any time, applicants may contact the Director of the Access Program, Alex Lorch (alexander.lorch@nara.gov 202-357-5101).