



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

Maritime Heritage Grant Program **FY25 Program Guidelines**

Introduction

The Maritime Heritage Grant Program, administered by [Preservation Maryland](#) (PM) in collaboration with the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR), provides direct assistance to promote the preservation of Maryland's irreplaceable maritime heritage. From fertile farmland to bountiful waters, Maryland's history is intrinsically linked to the Chesapeake Bay, and this unique and diverse maritime story deserves to be told in its entirety. A competitive grant open once a year, the Maritime Heritage Grant Program will provide much needed support to serve the historic preservation needs of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Eligibility

The Maritime Heritage Grant Program is open to [applications](#) from non-profit organizations, and instrumentalities of the state, counties, and municipalities engaged in maritime heritage preservation, interpretation, and conservation. Private property owners are not eligible for funding.

This grant program is intended to support education and preservation projects that advance the maritime heritage of Maryland. Funded activities include capital and non-capital projects.

Capital Projects: Capital projects support "bricks-and-mortar" projects, specifically those that involve the repair, restoration, rehabilitation, preservation or reconstruction of historic resources, including structures sites, landscapes, objects, and archeological resources.

Non-Capital Projects: Non-capital projects support projects that do not involve physical construction or repairs. Eligible projects include activities like research, survey, documentation, and educational programs.

Grant Awards

For FY25, the Maritime Heritage Grant Program will have \$200,000 in funding available, supported by Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF). Grants range from the minimum award of \$10,000 to the maximum award of \$50,000. As this is a competitive grant program, submitted applications do not guarantee full or partial funding approval.

The program requires that each applicant provides a cash or in-kind match of at least 10% of the total project cost. The required match must be reflected in the budget submitted as part of the grant application. Projects must be completed within one year of the award date.

The Maritime Heritage Grant Program Fund is a reimbursable grant program. Once projects are completed, grantees will submit a [Reimbursement Request and Grant Final Report](#) to process their grant award payment and close out. Reimbursement may not exceed the grant award amount and can only be made to the applicant and not to any contractors, consultants, or other project vendors.

Grantees may submit a one-time partial reimbursement for up to 50% of the grant award. Partial grant payments will reimburse the grantee for actual expenditures made in the support of the project to date. While requests for partial payments are accepted, they are not guaranteed and are approved on a case-by-case basis. The project must be completed before submitting the final Reimbursement Request.

Criteria For Grant Awards

Applications are evaluated by PM staff, in consultation with an independent Maritime Heritage Committee. The evaluation is based on how successfully the application meets the purpose and priorities of the Maritime Heritage Grant Program and the [FY25 Criteria and Scoring Rubric](#).

Application Procedure

Applications are submitted through the [online grant application platform](#), SmarterSelect, a link to which is also accessible on the Maritime Heritage Grant Program website. This platform is free but does require creating an account. The application will be open from **August 11 to October 3, 2025**. No emailed information will be accepted. All applications must be submitted by the deadline; no expectations will be made or granted.

As part of the application, you'll be required to upload support documentation. Depending on the project plans, an applicant should expect to provide the following, or similar, items:

- IRS Determination Letter and EIN
- Maryland Secretary of State Charitable Organization Standing Confirmation (screen capture is acceptable)
- Photographs of the building, project, and/or organization
- Project Budget
- Consultant estimates or quotes for the proposed professional services
- Letter of Support
- Letter of Support from Property Owner (if applicable)

It is recommended that potential applicants contact PM before beginning an application to discuss program eligibility. PM staff will be available virtually via Zoom on the following dates and times to discuss grant requirements and answer questions:

Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 6:00 PM – Virtual Information Session

This will be a webinar presentation providing an overview of the program followed by Q&A.

Friday, September 5, 2025, 12:00 PM – Virtual Office Hours

Friday, September 26, 2025, 12:00 PM – Virtual Office Hours

These will be unstructured, drop-in discussions and Q&A where attendees can ask specific questions about program eligibility and completing the application.

Application Timeline	
Application Opens	Monday, August 11, 2025
Virtual Information Session	Wednesday, August 27, 2025
Virtual Office Hours	Friday, September 5, 2025
Virtual Office Hours	Friday, September 26, 2025
Application Deadline	Friday, October 3, 2025
Award Public Announcement (anticipated)	November 2025

To sign up for the information session or one of the office hours, please visit [Preservation Maryland's calendar](#) for registration links.

Requirements and Conditions for Grantees

All applicants awarded grants through the Maritime Heritage Grant Program will be required to comply with the following grant requirements:

1. Complete the Grant Acceptance Form which confirms the project name, description, and award amount.
2. Submit current W-9.
3. Complete your project within one year of the award date. Extensions and modification requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are not automatically granted.
4. As appropriate, all work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, and contractors/consultants should meet the appropriate Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61).
5. Post a Maritime Heritage Grant Program identification sign at the project site and/or organizational headquarters as appropriate. Any materials or publicity produced about the project must include the following citation: *The <project name> was supported in part by a grant from the Maritime Heritage Grant Program, administered by Preservation Maryland in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.*
6. Once completed submit a Reimbursement Request and Grant Final Report which includes a summary of the project, and documentation confirming that the project was completed and payment was made on project expenses.

Questions?

A Virtual Information Session will take place on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This webinar presentation will provide an overview of the program followed by a Q&A; it will be recorded and made available on the Maritime Heritage Grant Program website.

There will be two virtual office hours, one on September 5, 2025, and one on September 26, 2025, both at 12:00 PM. These office hours will be unstructured, drop-in discussion and Q&A sessions where attendees can ask specific questions about program eligibility and submitting an application.

To sign up for the information session or one of the office hours, please visit [Preservation Maryland's calendar](#) for registration links. For further questions, contact Christiana Limniatis, Program & Outreach Manager at climniatis@PresMD.org or 410-685-2886 x302.

About Preservation Maryland

[Preservation Maryland](#) is a non-profit harnessing the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders.