

The National Coal Heritage Area Partnership Grant Program

Due February 13, 2015



National Coal Heritage Area Partnership Grants 2015

The National Coal Heritage Area (NCHA) is one of only 48 nationally designated heritage areas in the entire United States. It represents a part of the growing effort by the National Park Service to develop resource protection initiatives for areas of national importance that rely on partnerships and private ownership rather than the traditional methods of Federally owned parklands. The mission of the National Coal Heritage Area is to *preserve, protect, and interpret lands, structures, and communities associated with the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia.*

The NCHA encompasses 12 counties in southern West Virginia: Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, Lincoln and Wyoming and the Paint Creek and Cabin Creek watersheds in Kanawha County. An initiative of Congressman Nick J. Rahall II, the National Coal Heritage Area was officially designated as a national heritage area through the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996. Coalfield history and culture contain key elements of a unique social and economic history including the stories of industrial might, the struggle for labor unions, and the growth of distinctive cultural communities among different ethnic groups who worked side-by-side and lived together in the “company towns” of the region. The stories of the coalfields are uniquely American stories that continue to be expressed in the customs, communities, and narratives of this remarkable region and its people.

In 2002, the WV Legislature created the National Coal Heritage Area Authority to manage the development and promotion of the National Coal Heritage Area. The National Coal Heritage Area Authority operates as a public entity and currently maintains offices in Oak Hill. To support community efforts to preserve, interpret and promote coal heritage resources, the National Coal Heritage Area Authority announces a grant round for eligible projects within the National Coal Heritage Area. The National Coal Heritage Area management plan identifies interpretive themes for the area. Each project must address at least one of the interpretive themes in some manner and could go across several thematic areas. You are encouraged to consult with staff of the National Coal Heritage Area Authority as you develop your grant proposal. Approximately \$150,000 has been allocated for this round of grants. You should consider this to be a competitive process as all requests for funding cannot be honored at this time. Upon completion of the project, grant recipients will be required to submit a sworn statement of expenditures made under the grant in compliance with WV Code §12-4-14. The deadline for completion of projects in this grant round will be February 15, 2016.

**Christy Bailey, Executive Director
National Coal Heritage Area Authority
PO Box 15, Oak Hill, WV 25901
304-465-3720 cbailey@coalheritage.org**

Interpretive Themes

- **The Business of Coal Mining:** Includes early prospectors, coke processing, transportation of coal, uses, mining companies, company records, land speculation, early coalfield development, recruiting laborers, impact on industrialization of country
- **Working in Coal:** Includes life underground, training of miners, recruitment and integration of miners into the industry, early practices, mining safety, mining disasters, labor conflicts, health hazards, customs and superstitions
- **The Company Town:** Includes company stores, housing, mining community, role of religion, life of women, educating children, ethnic and racial diversity, food and customs, medical care, social activities and structures, accessibility of goods, folk arts and culture, isolation, community solidarity, service communities and commercial centers, community design and architecture
- **Mining Technology:** Includes early hand tools, hand loading, beginnings of mechanization, innovations and inventions, advances in underground technology, modern mining practices
- **Crisis and Renewal:** Includes declines in the industry, loss of jobs, migration from the coalfields, deindustrialization, boom and bust cycles, affect on company towns

Eligible Organizations

Organizations eligible for grant awards are legally established non-profit organizations and institutions (recognized by the IRS), and public and governmental organizations including county and municipal governments, state agencies, economic development authorities, and educational institutions, including public and private not-for-profit schools. All organizations must demonstrate that they possess the administrative and fiscal capacity to manage awarded grant funds and complete the project in compliance with the grant contract. Community organizations without adequate professional staff are encouraged to seek the assistance of other organizations with fiscal systems and staff capability to manage the grant funds, if necessary. Projects must be implemented within the National Coal Heritage Area.

Grant Range

Projects will range in costs from \$2,000 to \$100,000. Applicant organizations must provide 50% of the project cost and may request grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 with the remainder provided in documented matching funds.

Guidance on Matching Funds

Funding of this grant offering is provided to the National Coal Heritage Area through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. Funds allowed as matching project funds include any non-federal funds provided by the state, local governmental organizations, or raised from private sources. In-kind match is also allowed but must be carefully documented. Please consult with NCHA Authority staff if you have questions regarding matching funds. Matching funds must be available when the application is submitted and documentation of the matching funds must be included with the application. Documentation may include copies of bank statements reflecting balances that show that the funds are on-hand, grant award letters, letters of commitment from other funders, organizations, individuals, or businesses.

Dispersal of Funds

While grants of this nature are typically based on reimbursement of expenditures, advances will be allowed during this grant round. Please indicate in the budget section whether or not you will need to have funds advanced to you for the project. Projects where grant funds are provided in advance will be required to submit monthly financial and progress reports. At the completion of the project, financial records for the project will be audited by the staff of the National Coal Heritage Area Authority and the grantee will be required to return any funds remaining or deemed as ineligible costs.

Submission of Grant Applications

Completed grant applications must be **received** in the office of the National Coal Heritage Area Authority by 5:00 PM, February 13, 2015. Applications may be mailed to the Authority at National Coal Heritage Area Authority, PO Box 15, Oak Hill, WV 25901 or hand delivered to the Authority office at 100 Kelly Avenue in Oak Hill. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted. Two complete copies of the application, with a cover letter signed by the Executive Director or an officer of the corporation indicating institutional support for the project, are required. Please secure applications with a clip and do not staple or bind in any manner.

Eligible Categories

Interpretation and Heritage Programming: (grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$25,000)

Projects must create or further develop interpretive opportunities related to coal heritage within the National Coal Heritage Area incorporating at least one of the interpretive themes. Examples of eligible project are interpretive brochures and guides, performances and performance spaces, interpretive exhibits, creation of public art exhibits and development of interpretive signs and brochures for walking/biking trails. Can include community or school based heritage education projects. Designs for printed materials, signage design and interpretive plans must be approved by the National Coal Heritage Area Authority before printing or fabrication of signs begins. Exterior interpretive signage must use the graphic design template currently in use by the National Coal Heritage Area. Historical markers will be allowed under this category, but must be a part of the Division of Culture and History's historical marker program and must include adequate space for a minimum of two vehicles to safely pull off the road.

Historic Preservation and Resource Stewardship: (grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$50,000)

Projects in this category must further the preservation, protection, and/or restoration of historic properties, landscapes, and cultural resources within the National Coal Heritage Area and directly connected to the interpretive themes of the National Coal Heritage Area. All structures must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or determined as eligible for listing by the State Historic Preservation Office. Preservation and restoration of historic structures must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties." All preservation projects are subject to approval of the WV State Historic Preservation Office and may not proceed until written notice from SHPO is received. Examples of eligible projects are development of a historic preservation master plan for an existing National Register district or structure, structural analysis for the purpose of stabilizing an eligible structure, and interior and exterior rehabilitation. (Contact the State Historic Preservation Office, 304-558-0220 for technical assistance in determining eligibility of structures)

Archives and Historical Record Collection: (grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$25,000) Grants within this category will serve to increase the public's access to historical records and documents or to preserve paper-based archival documents. Examples of possible projects include collecting and cataloguing archival documents to be made available to the public and creation of systems to allow on-line access to document images. All work done under this category must focus on improving the public's access to archival information, but may not include ongoing operational expenses of operating an archival facility. A catalogue of material collected and archived under this grant category must be published and made available to the public either on-line or in print and a copy provided to the National Coal Heritage Area Authority.

Greenways, Public Parks, and Non-motorized Trails: (grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$25,000) Grants within this category must focus on creating outdoor interpretive spaces, be open to the general public, and be generally accessible to the traveling public. Example of projects could include a trailhead facility that relates the coal heritage of the area, interpretive trails that pass across mining lands or through company towns with accompanying interpretive materials, roadside pull-offs featuring interpretive signage and/or historical markers, gateways to coal communities, and non-motorized trails that connect historic resources. Design plans and feasibility studies for these types of projects are also considered to be eligible. In general playgrounds and recreational facilities will not be eligible for funding, unless they contain an interpretive element. Plans for maintenance of the site must be clearly defined with a responsible entity identified. All design plans for approved projects must be submitted to the National Coal Heritage Area Authority for approval before actual construction begins.

Educational Activities and Events: (grant awards range from \$500 - \$10,000) Grants within this category will focus on providing education opportunities within the community or schools. Educational activities should focus on preserving and sharing the history of the region with children, young adults or community members or involving those groups in collecting and preserving history. Eligible activities include: Field trips when combined with other educational activities, art projects that explore the history and culture of coal and coal communities, including drama, literature, photography, visual arts, music, dance, and public art projects, special speakers or presentations when combined with other educational activities, historical research and documentation including oral and family histories and digital stories created by students and community members, and workshops or presentations designed to assist communities in preserving and interpreting their history.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications should include the following information in the order given.

I. Organizational information (2 pages maximum)

- Name, address, phone and fax number of organization
- Contact person with email address
- Organizational status (non-profit status must be documented in attachments)
- FEIN Number and DUNS number
- Ability of organization to complete project with descriptions of any similar projects completed
- Fiscal capacity of organization to manage federal grant funds
- Experience of key project staff or volunteers

II. Description of Project (5 pages maximum)

- Project goals and steps designed to meet these goals
- Activities to be undertaken
- Timeline for completion of project-please provide concrete dates for completion of project.
- Target audience including number of people to be served if applicable
- Connection of project with National Coal Heritage Area Management Plan
- Description of methods used to ensure that products will be of highest quality and professionally produced
- Plan for sustainability and maintenance of project
- Describe how project will be made available to the public including staffing of site if applicable. Priority will be given to projects that have demonstrated appeal to tourists and will stimulate tourism based economic development.
- Discuss any benefit to the local community.
- How will you market your project?
- How will you recognize the support of the National Coal Heritage Area and connect your project to other coal heritage initiatives in the area/

III. Other Coal Heritage Partnership Grants

- Describe any previous Coal Heritage Partnership Grants that you have had
- Discuss the status of those grants and how long it took to complete the project
- How did you recognize the funding from the National Coal Heritage Area in promoting your project?

III. Community Involvement (2 pages maximum)

- Discuss organizations that will partner with you on this project and their contribution to the project
- Does this project fit in with any community preservation, economic development, or tourism plans?
- How will this project complement other projects within the community
- Discuss community support of this project. Include at least three letters of support including one from the appropriate governmental body of the project area (municipal government or county commission)

IV. Budget and Budget Narrative (2 pages maximum)

- Discuss whether you will complete the project on a reimbursement basis or will require an advance.
- Provide a detailed line item budget for grant funds and matching funds (use budget form attached to this document)
- Document the availability of matching funds or source of in-kind matching support
- Provide a detailed budget narrative describing how each expense will support the overall goal of the project.
- Funds may not be used for staff salaries and overhead, although services of a project manager or professional consultant may be allowable

VI Attachments: (15 page maximum) Attachments should include documentation of nonprofit status, letters of support, conceptual drawings and designs, documentation of the availability of matching funds and examples of previous projects but should not exceed 15 pages. Please do not include video or audio tapes or oversized materials that cannot be copied.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects will be judged by the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Connection to National Coal Heritage Area Themes | 20 points |
| • Organizational capacity to manage project | 10 points |
| • Plans for sustainability | 10 points |

- Appeal and accessibility as a heritage tourism venue 15 points
 - Community support and partnerships 10 points
 - Historical significance of structure, site, and/or project 10 points
 - Ability to complete project by the required deadlines. 10 points
 - Benefit to the Community 10 points
 - Plans for marketing the project and connecting it to other coal heritage initiatives in the region 5 points
- Total points possible** **100**

