

Heritage Grants Policy Statement

Purpose. The purpose of the NRHS Heritage Grants Program is to provide financial support to a variety of railway history preservation projects. The purpose of the NRHS Heritage Grants Committee is review proposals received in the annual competition and to recommend awards, and to manage the Heritage Grants Program.

- I. The Heritage Grants Program of NRHS is the responsibility of a Program Director, appointed by the President. The Director annually recommends the Committee membership to the President.
- II. The grants application form and accompanying instructions are approved by the Committee.
- III. The application form and accompanying instructions are made available to potential applicants on the NRHS website late in the Fall preceding the year in which the awards are to be made, after Board approval of funding for that year.
- IV. Applications for grants may be submitted by NRHS chapters and by entities which are not chapters. An entity may receive grants in two (2) consecutive years, but then may not apply again until a year has passed.
- V. Applications are due in the NRHS office by a date specified annually by the Program Director and approved by the NRHS President.
- VI. The Committee shall develop a process to review proposals and recommend awards.
- VII.
 - A. The Committee's primary concern is the quality and historical significance of the preservation projects proposed in the application and the ability of the applicant organization to carry out the project, including the historical importance of the preservation project, the applicant's ability to raise matching funds and/or to provide volunteer labor, plus such matters as the portion that the NRHS-funded segment will constitute of a larger project and the acknowledgment which NRHS will receive for its contribution. NRHS participation in extremely large projects is disfavored.
 - B. Applications from single individuals are disfavored.
 - C. Entities applying must be qualified as 501(c)(3) organizations. Projects which have as a major purpose producing revenue are also disfavored.
 - D. There is an expectation that entities receiving grants and subsequently accruing revenues as a result of the grant will make donations from those revenues to the NRHS at least up to the amount of the grant. Entities which receive grants and successfully complete a project which results in monetary improvement to the grantee's net worth are expected to make a donation to the NRHS Heritage Grants Program.
 - E. An entity which has received a prior NRHS grant must present evidence as to what was accomplished with that prior grant. An application will be disqualified if the applying entity has failed to make significant progress, or to complete work, on a prior grant.
 - F. Applications from an NRHS chapter are given special consideration, and, if two applications are of equal merit and one is from a chapter, the application from the chapter will be given preference for an award.
- VIII. The decisions of the Committee are advisory to the President, who makes the final determination of the awards.
- IX. Entities receiving a grant are expected to make annual reports on progress made on the project for which a grant was received.

NOTE: The Acting Director of the Heritage Grants Program, in consultation with NRHS Management and the Heritage Grants Committee, has developed a statement of Administrative Procedures.

Revised December 9, 2009