



Mohawk Valley Historic Rural Revitalization Grant Program

PROGRAM GUIDE

Summary Erie Canalway is offering up to \$680,250 in capital improvement grants for historic properties supported in part by a Paul Bruhn Historic Rural Revitalization Grant from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund. This program offers brick-and-mortar investment in National Register-listed historic properties located within small rural Mohawk Valley communities adjacent to the NYS Canal System.

This program and its funded projects will make valuable investments in historic properties near the Erie Canal. Together with other public and private investments, grant-funded projects will generate new economic development and tourism opportunities that enhance the Mohawk Valley's regional strength.

- Goals**
1. Rehabilitate historic structures that will benefit the local community.
 2. Award projects that strengthen tourism and economic development opportunities within the region.
 3. Advance positive public perception of local communities and the NYS Canal System as valuable places to live and visit.
 4. Align with other historic preservation, main street, tax credit, and waterways initiatives and programs.
 5. Inspire a long-term commitment by communities to continue to invest in historic infrastructure and community improvement projects.

Application Deadline Erie Canalway offers a rolling application period beginning **February 1, 2025, and concluding June 30, 2025, or until all funds are committed.** Applications are reviewed as received and awards will be made for qualifying projects. *Please be aware that the application window will close when all grant funds are allocated. Qualified applicants are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible.*

Award Range Requests may not be less than \$50,000; nor exceed \$100,000.

Match

A 25% cash match of the project total is required. Match sources must be non-federal.

What We Fund

The program will fund capital rehabilitation and repair activities that follow the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*, contribute to the community's historic character, and result in public spaces that support broader economic development growth.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- roof
- masonry
- door and/or window repair
- painting
- façade repair
- structural stabilization
- ADA Accessibility needs
- site infrastructure upgrades
- mechanicals
- plumbing
- electrical upgrades and other activities to bring buildings up to code

Pre-development and administrative costs may not exceed 20% of the total project costs. Applicants must document a minimum of three competitive bids and select the most advantageous bid. Three bids DO NOT need to be submitted as part of the application package.

What We Don't Fund

- Projects seeking support for pre-development activities only
- Requests for new construction
- landscaping
- building reconstruction
- paving
- private homes
- payments for previous activities and projects
- reduction of existing debt
- indirect costs
- purchase of real property
- political or religious activities
- additions to reserve funds or endowments
- regranteeing of awarded funds

Eligibility

Applicants and Location: This program is open to private, public, and nonprofit owners of historic properties in communities located immediately adjacent to the Erie Canal between the villages of Frankfort and Tribes Hill within the Mohawk Valley in Herkimer and Montgomery Counties. A map and list of eligible communities can be found on the grant program webpage:

<https://eriecanalway.org/resources/grants/mohawk-valley-historic-revitalization-grants>

National Register: Eligible properties must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places or be a contributing feature to a National Register Historic District, at the time of application.

Building Ownership: Eligible applicants must own their building and the building must be accessible to the public. Private individuals, nonprofits, counties, and other municipal governments are eligible. Residential homes are not eligible.

National Park Service technical and other reviews: Prior to grant award finalization, all projects, professional consultants, and the proposed design plans require a preliminary review by the National Park Service. After the award announcement and prior to work commencing, the National Park Service will review plans for consistency with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and Archeology* and conduct consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office and other consulting parties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Work may not begin until these reviews are completed and NPS provides final approval to proceed. A second required National Park Service Review is conducted at the 75% design stage.

Match: Applicants will demonstrate a minimum cash match contribution equal to 25% of the total qualifying project costs (e.g. a \$100,000 total project cost would include a grant request of \$75,000 and a match of \$25,000). The program's maximum grant award will be \$100,000, and the minimum amount considered will be \$50,000, with a requirement to complete the project **before July 2026**.

Grant payment will be made in installments upon the project's professional consultant reviewing and approving contractor invoices. Individual payments will equal 75% of the qualifying project costs. Erie Canalway will hold 10% of the grant award and release it once the project's professional consultant has signed off on the final 100% completion.

Program Priorities

Organizational investment and project feasibility: Strong applications will include clear and tangible evidence of the applicant's overall investment in their project including organizational capacity, strong conceptual planning, clear financing, and detailed plans.

Population and poverty rates: Priority project locations will have populations under 4,500 and with a current Census Bureau poverty rating greater than 15%.

Incentives: Erie Canalway strongly encourages the use of other preservation incentives, such as New York State Historic Tax Credits, participation in the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative program, the NYS Main Street Program, the LWRP program, and the NYS Historic Barn Rehabilitation Program. Federal Historic Tax Credit funds are also encouraged but may not be used as a match for this program.

Minority and women-owned businesses: **To the greatest extent possible, Erie Canalway encourages incorporating minority and women-owned** business enterprises for all or part of the proposed activities.

Application Evaluation and Award

All applications are reviewed and scored by a volunteer advisory group of qualified professionals in relevant fields. Members of the advisory group will not be made public.

Project awards will be made on a rolling basis for qualifying activities until available resources have been committed. Application award determinations are made as follows:

1. Submitted applications are initially reviewed for completeness and eligibility, and requests for additional information are made to the applicant if necessary.
2. Applications meeting all eligibility and completeness thresholds are reviewed once a month by the committee. **An application is only advanced to the review committee when Erie Canalway determines the package to be complete and eligible and all additional requested information has been received and approved.**
3. Applications are then scored by the review committee. A total of 100 points is available. Applications with a total score of 75 points or greater (see the general criteria below) will be considered fundable. Erie Canalway may conduct a site visit, and the application will be submitted to the National Park Service for an eligibility review and approval prior to award.

4. Applicants selected for award will undergo an initial evaluation to determine risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the potential award for purposes of determining the appropriate level of monitoring. Additional information will be requested by Erie Canalway as part of this determination.
5. Upon receipt of preliminary NPS approval and Erie Canalway's risk assessment, the award will be announced, and grant contracting will begin.
6. Following the execution of the grant agreement, NPS will initiate a full technical review. Work can commence upon receipt of a Notice to Proceed from NPS.

Erie Canalway reserves the right to award or reject any or all applications, in any amount, for any reason.

Scoring

The following broad criteria and point scale offer a high-level summary of scoring priorities and categories.

Is the project listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a listed contributing feature in a National Historic District? If not, the project is ineligible.

General

- Adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- Does the project consultant meet the selection criteria required by the Secretary of the Interior's professional standards?
- Does the project include the NYS and/or Federal Historic Tax Credits or other NYS funding sources (e.g., NYS Main Street, Downtown Revitalization Incentive, Restore New York, NYS Historic Barn Rehabilitation Tax Credit)?

Project appropriateness

- Does this project reflect the organization or applicant's actual needs?
- Does the project address the most critical building needs?
- Is the project at a significant level of planning to meet grant requirements and timelines?
- Is the building structurally sound and able to be stabilized or restored?

- Is the project easily accessible by bike or foot from the Empire State Trail or NYS Canal System?
- Does the project include a public use component?
- Does the proposed project align with the local municipal comprehensive or organizational strategic plan?

Applicant fiscal and managerial capacity

- Has the applicant demonstrated the capacity to complete capital rehabilitation projects on time and within budget?
- Is the required match appropriately secured (award letters, contracts, etc.)?
- Does the applicant follow industry standards and approaches to leadership, financial management, or other municipal or private financial reporting and accountability?
- Is the implementation schedule realistic?
- Is the proposed budget realistic, relevant, and developed by professional standards?
- Does the applicant have staff with sufficient experience and organizational longevity to implement the project?

Public benefit

- Is this project included in the community's comprehensive master plan or a DRI?
- Does the project document appropriate community support?
- Is the project's community population less than 4,500 and is the poverty rate 15% or greater?
- Will completion of this project meet a defined community need?
- Will the completed project result in greater public use of the NYS Canal System's trails and waterways?
- Will this project contribute to the community's economic development growth?
- Will this project result in increased public space?

Application Process

All applications will be completed on **GoodGrants.com**. Access the link at <https://eriecanalway.org/resources/grants/mohawk-valley-historic-revitalization-grants>

You will be required to create a login and password. No hand-written, faxed, or hard-copy submissions will be accepted. Clear photographs, elevation drawings if available (not greater than 75% complete), and consultant qualifications, among other supporting documents, may be uploaded and reviewed as part of the application package.

Grant Conditions

- The building is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places or is a contributing feature for a National Historic District.
- Architects and other consultants must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards.
- Grant-funded projects may not begin until the National Park Service has reviewed and approved the proposal. Review includes consultant and design approvals, National Environmental Policy Act review, and a No Adverse Effect determination in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are each required prior to work commencing.
- All projects are required to have a 10-year covenant/easement and be listed on the deed. NYS Historic Preservation Office will hold the covenant/easement.
- A project sign supplied by Erie Canalway is required to be publicly displayed at the project location.

Questions and Assistance

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Application Resources

Secretary of the Interior's Standards: [The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#)

Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications: [Professional Qualifications Standards \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives: [Historic Preservation Tax Incentives \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

New York State Historic Preservation Tax Incentives: [NYSCommercialTaxCreditPrograms.pdf](#)