

# TEXAS PRESERVATION TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM



## **Policy Description:**

Texans have inherited a wide array of historic architecture and archeological sites that reflect the diversity of all those who have called Texas home. The most serious problem facing historic preservation in Texas is the rapid deterioration and destruction of thousands of Texas' historic and pre-historic sites. To meet this challenge, the 71st Texas Legislature established the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) in 1989. This interest-earning fund of public and private money is administered as matching grants to qualified applicants for the acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation or for the planning and educational activities leading to the preservation of historic architectural and archeological properties and associated collections of the State of Texas. Competitive Grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project.

Types of Preservation Grants include:

- **Development** (“preservation,” “restoration,” “rehabilitation,” and “reconstruction,” as defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, 1995) architecture costs include professional fees to supervise actual construction, the costs of construction, and related expenses approved by the Commission; or archeology costs necessary for stabilizing or repairing damage sustained at an archeological site or for protective measures; or
- **Acquisition** of absolute ownership of eligible historic resources and related costs and professional fees; or
- **Planning** costs necessary for the preparation of property specific historic structure reports, historic or cultural resource reports, preservation plans, maintenance studies, resource surveys, local and regional preservation plans or surveys, and/or feasibility studies; or for professional inventory and/or rehabilitation of state associated held-in-trust archeological collections, professional archeological investigation for site assessment or data collection purposes and the subsequent analysis and reporting of those results to address specific and significant archeological issues to aid with archeological site planning.
- **Heritage Education** costs necessary for training individuals and organizations about historic resources and historic preservation techniques.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- To be considered eligible for grant assistance projects including buildings/structures, landscapes or archeological sites must have a required historic designation or be eligible to receive one.
- Preservation grants can be made to any public or private entity that is the owner, manager, lessee, maintainer, potential purchaser of an eligible property, or any public or private entity whose purpose includes historic preservation. **Note:** If applicant is not the owner of the historic property, then the owner must be aware of the application and agree to follow all rules and conditions of the THC that are required for receipt of funds for development or planning projects.
- Applicants eligible to receive grant assistance must provide a minimum of one dollar in matching cash to each state dollar for approved project costs.
- To be considered for grant funding, the commission will select initial applicants to submit detailed project proposals. The project proposal consists of professional documents describing in detail how the proposed work will be carried out. A qualified professional should prepare the project proposal and all project proposals for acquisition, development and planning must be consistent with preservation standards (Architecture: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, 1995; Archeology: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation, 1983, as appropriate; Curatorial: Consistent with standards outlined in Curatorial Facility Certification Program). **The project proposal must be reviewed and selected for grant funding by the THC prior to any construction work being undertaken.**
- All acquisition and development projects will be required to grant an easement, in a format acceptable to the Commission, to ensure the long-term preservation of the grant-assisted property. However, architectural properties and archeological sites are exempt from the easement if the property/site is designated a State Archeological Landmark (SAL) or if there is an existing conservation easement equivalent to the program requirements. The easement shall run with the land and be enforceable by the State of Texas, and its duration will be based upon the cumulative amount of grant assistance as follows:

less than \$10,000	10 years from the start of the easement
\$10,000 - \$30,000	15 years from the start of the easement
\$30,001 - \$50,000	20 years from the start of the easement
Greater than \$50,000	30 years from the start of the easement

**How to Apply:**

Applications will be available early each year to public or private entities for projects involving eligible historic properties, sites or projects. There are two steps in the grant application process. First, all applicants are required to submit brief application forms for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to review prior to each year’s deadline. The THC will select the highest priority projects from the initial applications and invite those applicants to move forward to the second step. Successful applicants will continue the process by submitting detailed project proposals and budgets. Full project proposals will be considered by the Commission in the fall of each year. The exact timetable will be published on the THC web site as grant cycles are announced.

The Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grant program is an opportunity to save and protect Texas' threatened historic structures and significant archeological sites. For additional information and to be placed on the grant application mailing list, please contact the Texas Historical Commission, Architecture Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 463-6094 or view THC’s web site at [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

**Additional Resources:**

Economic Development  
[www.cctexas.com/economicdevelopment](http://www.cctexas.com/economicdevelopment)

Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation  
[www.ccredc.com](http://www.ccredc.com)

Development Services  
[www.cctexas.com/developmentservices](http://www.cctexas.com/developmentservices)