

Dollars & Sense

Benefits of Historic Preservation Development Grants in West Virginia

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Foreword

West Virginia's historic assets are recognized through the National Register of Historic Places. One of the benefits of this honorary designation is access to special grant funding and tax credits targeted at preserving and re-using historic resources. At the state government level, property owners – both private and public—can access the Historic Preservation Development Grant.

The Historic Preservation Development Grant stimulates West Virginia's economy because it requires a 50% match for all grant awards. This match is in addition to the private investment the property owner makes in purchasing the property, paying property taxes, and completing other improvements.

West Virginians are re-using historic assets at an increasing rate, revitalizing downtowns, and repurposing historic buildings. The Historic Preservation Development Grant often serves as an extra boost to private fund-raising efforts, and it ensures success for many of these projects by providing financial assistance. Additional bonuses to this grant program are that grant recipients frequently leverage volunteer resources and hire in-state workers for construction projects, which generates interest in community-driven projects.

It is clear that the Historic Preservation Development Grants program is good for the people and the economy of West Virginia, but until now, there has been little research to prove this assertion. In 2014, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) researched the economic impact of the Historic Preservation Development Grant program and developed this report as a tool for our request to the WV Legislature to restore the Historic Preservation Development Grant budget to **\$563,570** – FY2013 levels.

At the end of this report, there is a list of all the Historic Preservation Grant projects for FYs2012-2015 and the grant purposes. I encourage you to look at these tables to see what a valuable investment these grants are to jumpstart rehabilitation projects and community revitalization. Roof repair or replacement, window and door rehab, electrical updating and more – these are all projects made possible through the Historic Preservation Development Grant proving that preservation works for West Virginia!

Danielle



Danielle LaPresta
Executive Director

Introduction

The WV Historic Preservation Development Grant

program (also known as the Development Grant) is used for restoration, rehabilitation, and repair of historic properties, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The program also funds projects with objectives involving the protection, stabilization, or preservation of an archaeological resource in danger from such land-altering activities as development or erosion or from unauthorized excavation or looting. Grant funds are frequently used toward the preservation and re-use of historic buildings for heritage tourism, educational, community, and small-business purposes. Grant recipients are oftentimes West Virginia property owners, so the grant benefits your constituents directly. In the last three years, the Historic Preservation Development Grant has been downsized by 52%, and in only two years, West Virginia has lost at least \$267,456 in private investment – mostly in downtowns and vacant buildings. This decline of public/private partnerships is detrimental to economic development in our downtowns. This data supports PAWV’s request for FY2016 and the Historic Preservation Development Grant be restored to **\$563,570** - FY2013 levels.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archaeological resources.

Each year, the WV Legislature appropriates funding for Historic Preservation Grants. The funding source for these grants is WV Revenue via Lottery Funds as well as matching funds from the grant recipients. This is a separate historic preservation grant program from the Survey and Planning grant funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress from the National Park Services Historic Preservation Fund.¹

The WV State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the Division of Culture & History administers the Historic Preservation Development Grants. Established following the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the West Virginia SHPO aims to preserve historic and prehistoric properties which serves as a catalyst to stabilize neighborhoods, stimulate private investment, provide affordable housing, revitalize downtown activities, attract tourists, and enhance community pride. Its

The WV Lottery Fund is also used for appropriations to Arts Grants and other activities under Education & the Arts.

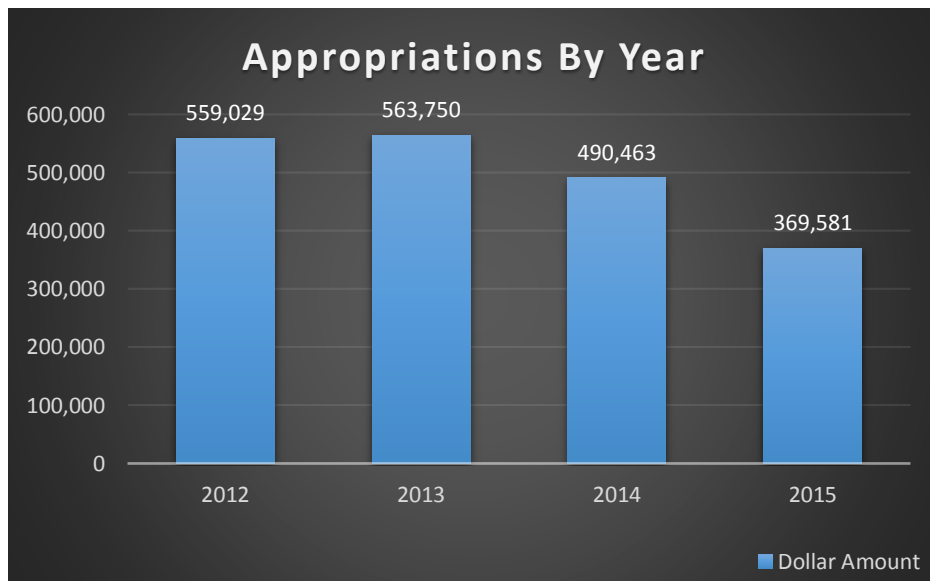
¹ “Governor Tomblin Announces State Historic Preservation Grant Recipients,” Official Website of the State of West Virginia, <http://www.governor.wv.gov/media/pressreleases/2013/Pages/GovernorTomblinAnnouncesStateHistoricPreservationGrantRecipients.aspx>.

mission is to encourage, inform, support, and participate in the efforts of the people of West Virginia to identify, recognize, preserve, and protect West Virginia’s prehistoric and historic structures, objects, and sites.

Historic Preservation Development Grants are competitive and the number and amount of awards depend on the grant budget each year. Grant recipients may be a state or local government agency, not-for-profit organization, private citizen, for-profit company, or educational institution. Religious organizations cannot receive Historic Preservation Development Grant funding.

All Historic Preservation Development Grant recipients must follow the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation for their project. The intent of the Standards is to protect a property’s significance through the preservation of historic materials and features. To be certified for grant purposes, a rehabilitation project must be determined by the Grant Monitor to be consistent with the historic character of the structure(s), and where applicable, the district in which it is located.² By enforcing these standards, the State of West Virginia is protecting its investment and ensuring the historic integrity – what makes the property historically significant – is maintained.

The Historic Preservation Development Grant program is a valuable tool to re-use our state’s historic assets and increase economic development. It requires a financial investment from every grant recipient. Each grant award is matched dollar-for-dollar by the grant recipient, and the match is frequently private dollars. By downsizing this fund, West Virginia is losing precious investments in heritage tourism, educational initiatives, and small-business ownership.



Over the last three years, Historic Preservation Grant funding has been downsized by 52%.

² "Introduction to the Standards", The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/rehab/stand.htm>, Accessed on 1/4/2015.

This report demonstrates the social benefits and economic impact of the Historic Preservation Grant program. Residents of West Virginia initiate, manage, and invest in these projects.

For FY2016, PAWV and its members are requesting the grant fund be restored to \$563,750.



First Ward School in Randolph County was dilapidated and vacant for years until a private/public partnership worked to re-purpose the historic school for affordable apartments.

Historic Preservation Grants Build the WV Economy

Encourage Higher-Paying Jobs

Prevailing Wage

Prevailing Wage is defined as “the hourly wage, usual benefits and overtime, paid in the largest city in each county, to the majority of workers, laborers, and mechanics.” Prevailing wages are established, by the Department of Labor & Industries, for each trade and occupation employed in the performance of public work. They are established separately for each county and are reflective of local wage conditions.³ Prevailing wage is determined through surveys, data, and collective bargaining agreements.

Historic Preservation Grant recipients frequently rely on local West Virginia contractors and laborers to complete the work for their projects because the projects are smaller and long-term. Grant recipients must pay prevailing wage to project workers and this wage is generally higher than what workers are paid for non-grant funded projects. A general laborer in Charleston, WV gets paid approximately \$14.28/hr⁴ compared to the general laborer prevailing wage in Kanawha County, WV is \$24.03/hr.⁵

³ “Prevailing Wage: What You Need to Know,” Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/PrevWage/basics/default.asp>.

⁴ “General Laborer Salaries in Charleston, WV,” Salary.com, <http://www1.salary.com/WV/Charleston/General-Laborer-salary.html>.

⁵ *Ibid.*

Employing West Virginia workers

These projects provide valuable employment opportunities for West Virginians. Of our data sampling, 8 of the 13 projects employed in-state workers to complete the work. These include administrative, skilled, and unskilled workers. Project managers, carpenters, semi-skilled laborers are among positions the in-state employers used. The prevailing wages for some of these positions in Kanawha County are \$29.48 (carpenters) and \$24.03 (laborers).⁶

Utilize Other Funding Sources

Matching Funds

All Historic Preservation Grant recipients must match their grant award dollar-for-dollar. Grant recipients match cannot come from other federal sources. This requires project managers to raise funds through other avenues such as community fundraisers and private foundation funds. Some of the match can also be contributed as “in-kind” for donated time from a



Staats Hospital Building, 2014
Photo Credit: Kenny Kemp, Charleston Gazette

Development Grants Require Community Investments

- Prevailing wage must be paid for all construction jobs.
- All grant awards are matched dollar-for-dollar by the recipient.
- Grant match funds must derive from non-federal funds.

professional. The in-kind rate is calculated according to the professional’s hourly rate as approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. Architects, engineers, and craftspeople sometimes donate their time as match for these grants. Property owners and volunteers may use their donated time, labors and resources as a match if evaluated and pre-approved by the Grant Coordinator at SHPO. Volunteer efforts demonstrate a commitment to preservation and the long-term viability of the project because community members are investing their time and hard-earned dollars into these projects.

There are several types of grant recipients including private, county government, and educational institution. In FYs2012-2014, West Virginians invested almost \$1 million dollars into the adaptive reuse of historic infrastructure – mainly West

⁶ *Ibid.*

Virginia downtowns and cities. Almost half of the matching funds (\$441,069) was from private investors.

Additionally these grants help small business owners. For example, the Staats Building renovation in Charleston's West Side will provide several storefronts for new businesses on the first floor along with a large amount of office space and rentals in the upper floors. Not only will the Staats Building adaptive reuse project benefit current and new local businesses, but a local developer and native of West Virginia is spearheading the project. Without the Historic Preservation Development Grant funds, this project would not be possible. If the Historic Preservation Development Grant fund is increased, these levels of private investment would continue to rise throughout the state, stimulating similar projects.

The total Historic Preservation Grant Match for FYs 2012-2014 is \$920,846.

Tax Credits

The Federal government and the West Virginia state government have established Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits for income-producing and residential properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As with the Historic Preservation Development Grant program, these tax credits are available to the owner or long-term lessee of any depreciable building that is rehabilitated according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Federal rehabilitation tax credit rate for commercial structures is 20% of the capital investment in the building, and the West Virginia state income tax credit for commercial properties is equal to 10% of the capital investment; while for residential properties, it is 20%.

Similarly to the Historic Preservation Development Grant, qualifying activities include, but are not limited to, rehabilitation of the roof, windows and doors, porches, and foundation, in addition to interior rehabilitation and completing work that will ensure building codes are met. Tax credits are an additional incentive for historic building owners to revitalize their buildings, and it is another strategy for the government to protect its investment because all tax-credit earning projects must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation – as owners must follow when utilizing the Historic Preservation Development Grant.

The West Virginia State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program as well as the Federal Tax credits are administered by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), an agency of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.⁷

⁷ *The West Virginia Historic Preservation Tax Credit Booklet*, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, <http://pawv.org/special/The%20West%20Virginia%20Historic%20Rehabilitation%20Tax%20Credits%20Booklet.pdf>, 1.

Engage WV Residents

Volunteering

Volunteer assistance is an excellent way to involve members of the town and county.

The projects utilizing Historic Preservation Grants often attracted volunteers. Although it varies per project, as many as fifteen (15) volunteers have helped with a single site activity for FY2012-2014 projects. Volunteer activities commonly included general maintenance, open house events, and fundraising.

It is also becoming popular to engage volunteers in hands-on preservation work on the buildings themselves. In order to engage volunteers and provide them with the necessary preservation skills, PAWV frequently holds hands-on educational workshops to volunteers all over the state. In 2014, PAWV gave a historic windows rehabilitation workshop at the Entler-Weltzheimer House (Yellow House) on Shepherd University campus in Jefferson County. During this workshop, volunteers rehabilitated windows and West Virginia skilled craftspeople taught volunteers.



Volunteers and workshop participants learning how to rehabilitate historic windows at the Entler-Weltzheimer House on Shepherd University campus. Photo credit: Curt Mason

Heritage Tourism

Heritage tourism is defined as traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past. Heritage tourism helps make historic preservation economically viable by using historic structures and landscapes to attract and serve travelers. Heritage tourism is an attractive economic revitalization strategy, especially as studies have consistently shown that heritage travelers stay longer and spend more money than other kinds of travelers. As an added bonus, a good heritage tourism program improves the quality of life for residents as well as serving visitors.⁸

Over 30 of the 67 projects from 2011-2015 have been adaptively re-used for the purpose of the arts, education, and/or public structures. People re-using these properties rely on the Historic Preservation Grant and would otherwise not have the incentive to invest in the businesses

⁸ "Heritage Tourism," National Trust for Historic Preservation, <http://www.preservationnation.org/information-center/economics-of-revitalization/heritage-tourism/>. Accessed 1/17/2015.

housed in these properties. They house businesses that provide important public services or draw locals and tourists for fun and leisure. Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, is an excellent example of heritage tourism at work. One of only four Carnegie Halls still in continuous use in the world, this performance hall is a cornerstone to the heritage tourism economy that draws local citizens and tourists to historic downtown Lewisburg. Carnegie Hall schedules regular performances and offers different art, dance, sewing classes and more. It is also incorporated into other heritage tourism efforts including the West Virginia Historic Theater Trail and the Mountain Music Trail.

Main Street/OnTRAC Communities

The Main Street program uses a common-sense approach to tackle the complex issue of downtown and neighborhood commercial district revitalization, capitalizing on the history and the resources of the community itself.⁹

The West Virginia OnTRAC (Organization, Training, Revitalization and Capacity) program was created by Main Street West Virginia to assist West Virginia communities in their efforts to boost economic and community growth. The goals of the program are to evaluate, educate and assist communities in these efforts and to prepare them for more advanced technical services through the Main Street program.¹⁰ Both programs are administered through the West Virginia Development Office within the Department of Commerce.

Over 37 of the 67 projects are located in Main Street and OnTRAC communities. Revitalizing these communities instills pride, provides a sense of place, and inspires commitment in neighborhoods. These projects empower people, businesses, and organizations to achieve on-going transformation after periods of population decreases and de-industrialization.

Communities following the Main Street model experience an increase in local and visitor traffic through shopping, cultural and social activities, a stabilized or improved housing market, an increase in customers and sales, and an improved image.¹¹

Successful Communities

Many of the Historic Preservation Grant projects enhance community involvement and pride. Community residents and investors often attend public meetings held during the planning stages. For the First Ward School project in Elkins, AU Associates and C-HOPE held community

⁹ "Main Street West Virginia," WV Department of Commerce, [http://www.wvcommerce.org/\(S\(2wrhgh55230cbivbzyzbn5f4\)\)/people/communityresources/communityrevitalization/mainstreetwestvirginia/default.aspx](http://www.wvcommerce.org/(S(2wrhgh55230cbivbzyzbn5f4))/people/communityresources/communityrevitalization/mainstreetwestvirginia/default.aspx), Accessed 1/18/2015.

¹⁰"OnTRAC", West Virginia Department of Commerce, <http://www.wvcommerce.org/people/communityresources/communityrevitalization/ontrac/default.aspx>, Accessed 1/18/2015.

¹¹ "Main Street West Virginia," WV Department of Commerce, http://www.wvcommerce.org/App_Media/assets/doc/businessandworkforce/devo/Main-Street-OnTrac-Brochure.pdf.

planning meetings to inform and involve the community in the benefits, design, and re-use of the building. Prior to its renovation, the First Ward School was vacant and dilapidated.

Multiple partners often invest in these projects, and in some cases, there is a non-profit organization managing the building rehabilitation, which allows for community input from the



In late 2014, the restoration of the Capitol Theater façade was completed.

Photo credit: Mills Group, LLC

volunteer board of directors. After the Capitol Theater in Wheeling closed in 2007, a consortium of Wheeling-area nonprofit organizations, including Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation and the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau, joined together to purchase, restore, and reopen the theatre. In September 2009, the Capitol Theater’s doors reopened, and it has since booked nationally- renowned performances year round. The theater continues to draw tourists and residents into downtown Wheeling with an economic impact of millions of dollars.

Another example of a great partnership is the Staats Building project in Charleston’s West Side district. The former hospital sat vacant for at least ten years until developer Tighe Bullock began construction to makeover the building located at the entrance to Charleston’s West Side. By summer of 2015, a few retail stores and even a restaurant are anticipated to move into the Washington Street West building. Bullock initially utilized a Historic Preservation Grant to repair the roof to get it through the winter. At the beginning of 2015, he began working on building the store fronts. With the renovation of this “entrance gate” of West Side, Bullock hopes that the rest of the area will eventually follow suit.

Multiple private-public partnerships are making this major building transformation a reality. The Charleston Area Alliance supplied a \$150,000 loan and a \$15,000 grant to help the project. SHPO granted \$78,000 through the 2015 WV Historic Development Grants, and West Side Main Street assisted with a \$20,000 matching grant.

Public-private partnership projects are good for the people of West Virginia and support projects that revitalize communities and engage residents. Once projects are complete,



Senator Capito (then Congresswoman Capito) giving a speech at the grand opening of First Ward Apartments in 2013.

Photo credit: AU Associates

communities join together to celebrate. Grand openings and open houses are offered at many of the project sites, giving community members the opportunity to appreciate the well-restored buildings located in their communities. The Cockayne Farmstead in Marshall County held a West Virginia Day celebration after they had reopened. The First Ward School Apartments in Randolph County held a grand opening attended by legislators and people from all over the community.

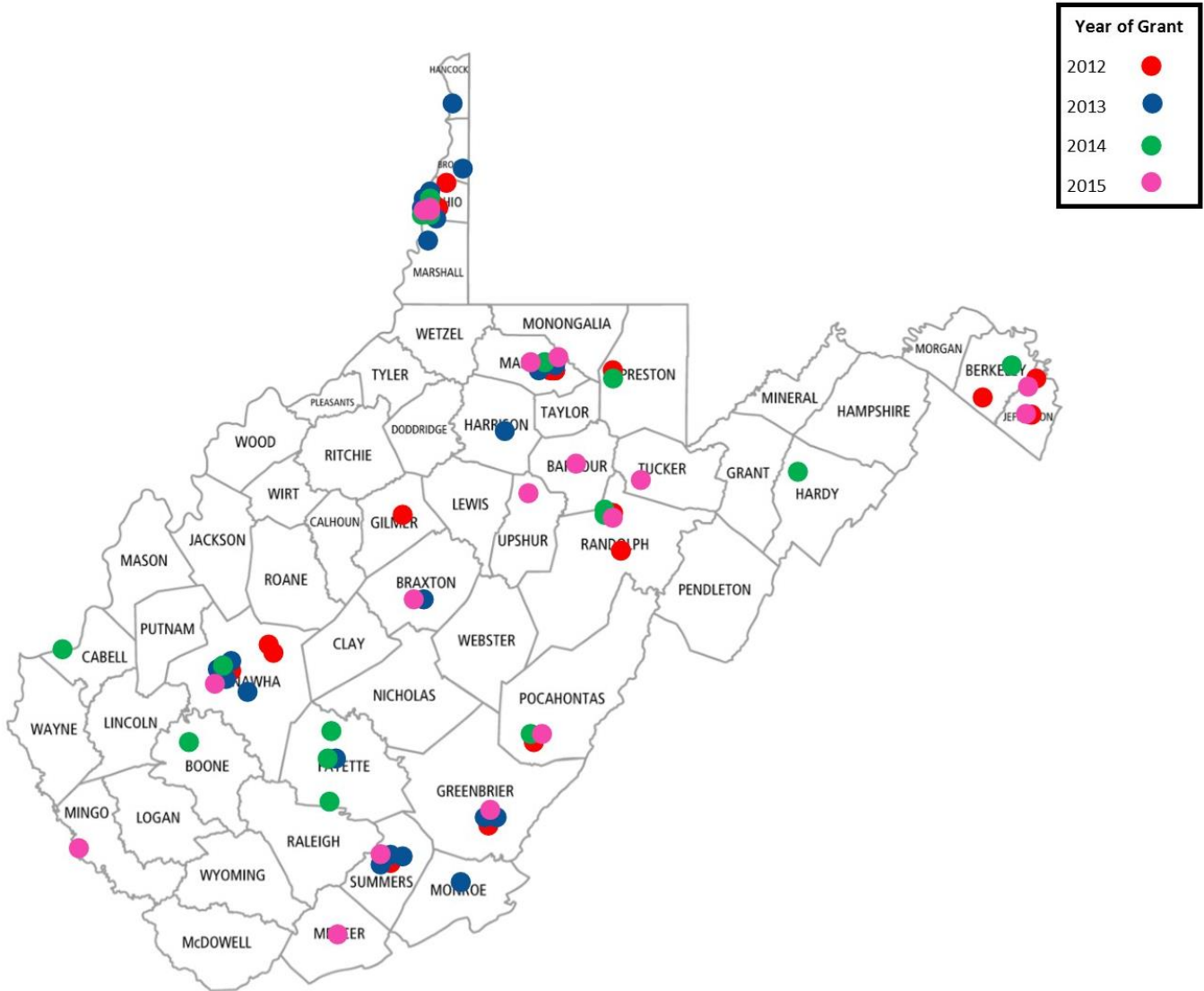
Conclusion

In 2014, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia developed this study to show the economic impact Historic Preservation Grants have on the State of West Virginia. We interviewed 14 grant project managers for the years 2012 – 2014 and collected data about their projects. From this research, we found that from 2012-2014, **\$920,846 was generated as grant match.**

Over the last three years, the Historic Preservation Grant has been **downsized by 52%**. Decreasing this fund by over half from the FY2013 levels has cost West Virginia at least **\$267,456** in private investment in a two-year period.

This grant program is valuable on multiple levels. It generates public and private investments from West Virginians, and it encourages small-business and community-based projects. West Virginians are initiating and planning their own projects for a better tomorrow. They rely on these grants and efforts of the State Historic Preservation Office to see their projects through to the end. In as little as three years, citizens have invested almost \$1 million dollars in the future of West Virginia. If more funds were appropriated for this grant, even more private/public partnerships would be created and projects implemented. Historic Preservation Grant projects frequently employ in-state workers, engage community residents, and diversify business investments. It is a program that needs your support, and it is our request that the **FY2016 Historic Preservation Grant budget be restored to at least FY2013 level of \$563,750.**

Projects Grant Awards by County - FY2012-FY2015



© Rand McNally

FY 2012

County	City	Building/Site	Project Type	Amount of Grant
Kanawha	Clendenin	Koontz Mansion	Private	18,422
	Charleston*	Station Place	Private Business	37,525
Preston	Arthurdale	New Deal Homestead Museum	Educational	9,308
Jefferson	Shepherdstown	Entler-Weltzheimer House	Educational	34,419
	Charles Town*	Old Opera House	Arts	\$25,062
	Clendenin	Clendenin Middle School Gymnasium	Housing/Medical Services	33,532
Randolph	Elkins*	Kump House	Educational	25,000
	Beverly*	Humboldt Yokum House	Private	25,000
Marion	Fairmont*	Masonic temple	Private	25,000
	Fairmont*	Thomas Fleming House	Non-profit	7,450
Berkeley	Gerrardstown	Marshy Dell	Non-profit/Educational	8,700
Pocahontas	Hillsboro	Pearl S. Buck Birthplace	Educational	7,500
Summers	Hinton	Hotel McCreery	Private Business	50,000
Greenbrier	Lewisburg	Carnegie Hall	Arts	29,543
Ohio	West Liberty	Shaw House	Educational	100,000
	Wheeling*	6 South Front Street	Private Business	26,046
	Wheeling*	Wheeling Scottish Rite Building	Private Business	68,000
	Wheeling*	Elmhurst	Private Business	10,000
Total				\$476,545

*Main Street/OnTRAC Communities

FY 2013

County	City	Building/Site	Project Type	Amount of Grant
Braxton	Sutton*	P.J. Berry's Restaurant	Private Business	\$36,000
Greenbrier	Lewisburg	Carnegie Hall	Arts	44,000
	Lewisburg	Greenbrier County Courthouse	Educational	40,000
Fayette	Fayetteville	Fayetteville Elementary	Educational	25,000
Summers	Hinton	Big Four Drug Store	Private Business	99,810
	Hinton	Summers County Courthouse	Government	80,000
Harrison	Clarksburg	Waldomore	Educational	138,975
Marshall	Glen Dale	Cockayne Farmstead	Educational	30,000
Marion	Fairmont*	Fairmont Transit Authority	Government/Transportation	65,865
	Fairmont*	Thomas Fleming House	Non-Profit	18,712
Brooke	Bethany	Alexander Campbell Mansion	Educational	2,860
Kanawha	Charleston*	McFarland Hubbard House	Arts	24,376
	Charleston*	Maple Terrace	Private Business	34,384
	Charleston*	713 Lee Street	Private	23,125
	Charleston*	Station Place	Private Business	30,713
Ohio	Wheeling*	The Cornelia	Private business	6,964
	Wheeling*	Capitol Theatre	Arts	19,500
	Wheeling*	Historic Second Presbyterian Church	Educational	47,194
Total				\$742,478

*Main Street/OnTRAC Communities

FY2014

County	City	Building/Site	Project Type	Amount of Grant
Cabell	Huntington	Coin Harvey House	Public use	\$19,960
Fayette	Mt. Hope	Patteson/Deering Building	Government	80,000
	Ansted	Tyree Tavern	Private Business	15,125
	Fayetteville	Old Fayetteville High School	Educational	25,000
Randolph	Elkins*	Graceland Inn	Educational	89,958
	Elkins*	Bishop Apartments	Private business	11,150
Pocahontas	Hillsboro	Pearl S. Buck Birthplace	Educational	7,960
Berkeley	Martinsburg*	Poor House Farm Park	Public Use	27,500
Boone	Madison	Boone Madison Library	Educational	35,500
Preston	Arthurdale	Arthurdale Forge	Educational	1,100
Marion	Fairmont*	Our Country Corner	Private Business	44,883
Ohio	Wheeling*	Vivienne Apartment	Private Business	37,943
	Wheeling*	YMCA Wheeling	Public Use	26,250
	Wheeling *	Fischer-Lasch Farmhouse	Private	18,846
Hardy	Moorefield	Oakland Hall	Private	4,836
Kanawha	Charleston*	Spring Hill Cemetery Park	Government	22,500
Total				\$468,511

*Main Street/OnTRAC Communities

FY 2015

County	City	Building/Site	Project Type	Amount of Grant
Barbour	Philippi*	Adaland Mansion	Public use	\$25,450
Greenbrier	Lewisburg	Carnegie Hall	Arts	37,922
Jefferson	Charles Town*	The Carriage Inn B&B	Private business	7,525
	Shepherdstown	Robinson-Tabb House	Private	5,050
	Charles Town*	Dr. A.O. Albin House	Private	19,750
Kanawha	Charleston*	Staats Building	Private business	78,437
Marion	Fairmont*	Fairmont Fire Station	Government	47,850
	Fairmont*	Thomas Fleming House	Non-Profit	5,000
Mercer	Princeton	Mercer County Court House	Government	46,200
Mingo	Williamson	Williamson Field House	Public use	36,925
Ohio	Wheeling*	Fischer-Lasch Farmhouse	Private	3,276
	Wheeling*	The Professional Building	Private	25,475
Pocahontas	Marlinton*	Pocahontas County Museum	Educational	34,872
Randolph	Elkins*	Kump House	Educational	10,010
Summers	Hinton	Hotel McCreery	Private business	25,221
Total				\$408,963

*Main Street/OnTRAC Communities

This report was prepared by the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia.

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is a statewide grassroots organization supporting historic preservation in the mountain state. Since 1982, the nonprofit PAWV has been working to preserve West Virginia's precious historical resources for the benefit of future generations.

PAWV has a track record of conducting research about the economic impacts of historic preservation projects in West Virginia. In 1997, PAWV published a booklet called *Economic Benefits of Preservation*. This was the first manifestation of what has become a staple of PAWV's platform: the direct link between economic development, tourism, and preservation.

The 1997 study covered more historic preservation incentives than this report including Main Street/OnTRAC programs and Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. The findings from both studies are comparable and demonstrate long-term viability that this investment trend will continue.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History State Historic Preservation Office promotes historic preservation with the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program and the Historic Preservation Grant Program. Both of these programs, along with the ISTEAs, have spurred nearly \$6 million worth of construction and another \$4.6 million in business volume, and created 112 job opportunities resulting in nearly \$3 million worth of employee compensation provided by these construction projects. The ISTEAs are no longer available, but the Historic Preservation Grants continue to be a valuable program. These grants are vital incentives for heritage tourism and small-business ownership. Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, is the cornerstone of the heritage tourism draw to downtown Lewisburg. Not only does this facility provide irreplaceable cultural programming, it also is a community staple for volunteers and arts lovers. For three of the four years surveyed, Carnegie Hall has been a grant recipient of the Historic Preservation Grant. This grant supports the most popular long-standing institutions in our state, as well as new entrepreneurial endeavors. Increasing the Historic Preservation Grant budget will only continue to improve the quality of life in West Virginia.

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