

Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program

Grant Application Webinar
2029 Biennium



COMMERCE

Agenda

- MHPG Overview
- 2027 Biennium Overview
- Eligibility
- Match
- Statutory Review Criteria
- Selection and Submission
- Project Timeline
- Grant Administration
- Questions

MHPG Program Overview

- The MHPG Program is a state-funded program created in 2019 as a result of Senate Bill 338, Sections 1-17.
- The MHPG Program is designed to support public or private entities with the preservation of historic sites, historical societies or history museums through grant funding and by demonstrating the economic impact of historical resources throughout the state.



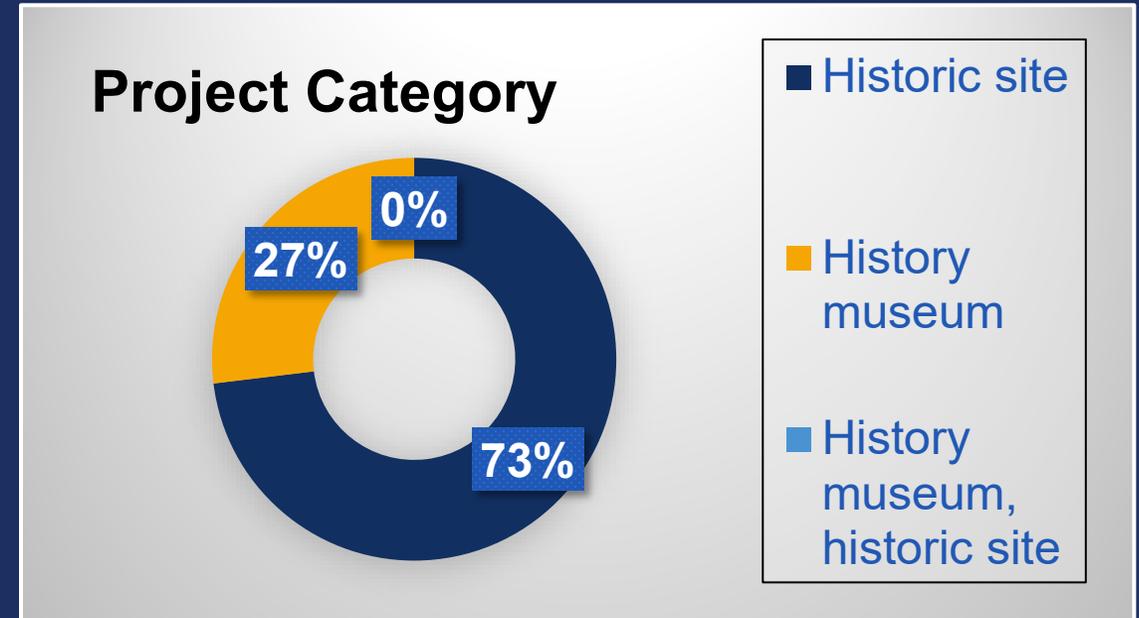
MHPG Program Overview

- The MHPG Program provides the opportunity to stimulate economic development, community revitalization and statewide tourism through increased investment, job creation or retention, business expansion and local tax base growth.
- Funding is made available for the MHPG Program through the legislative process. To be considered for the 2029 Biennium, the deadline for submitting a grant application for funding is **Feb. 28, 2026**.



Overview of 2023 Biennium Awarded Projects

- **Twenty-six** projects awarded in 2023 Biennium
- Total awarded: **\$5,449,350**
- Percentage of awarded projects: **30%**

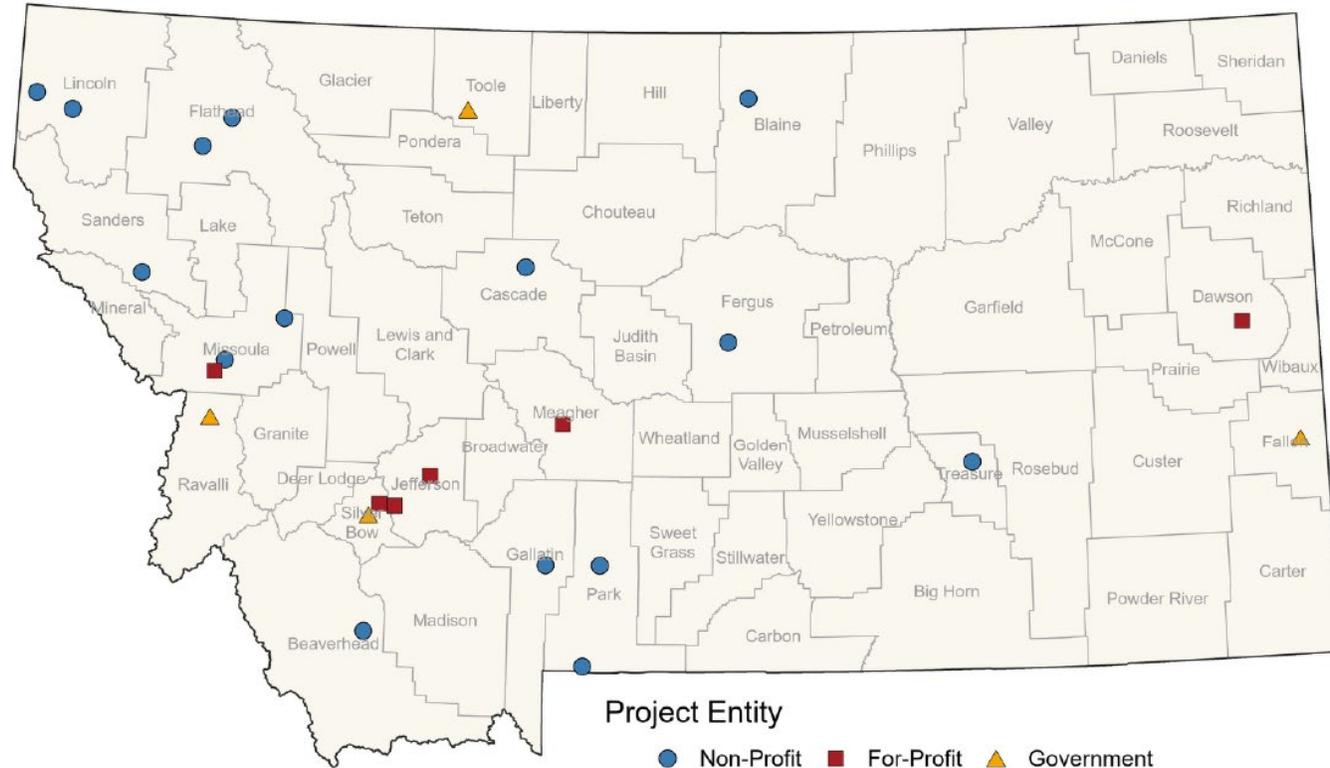


Project	Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Difference	2023 Bi - Summary Data	
Yucca Theater in Hysham	Treasure County '89ers Museum Board	\$23,300.00	\$23,300.00	\$0.00	Average Amount Requested	\$235,043
The Dion Block in Glendive	McPherson Real Estate LLC on behalf of The Dion Block	\$206,822.00	\$206,822.00	\$0.00	Average Amount Awarded	\$209,590
Crowley Block in Lewistown	Bighorn Valley Health Center, Inc.	\$412,535.00	\$412,535.00	\$0.00	Average Difference	\$ 25,452.85
The People's Center in Pablo	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	\$63,250.00	\$50,600.00	\$12,650.00	Total Requested	\$6,111,124
Central School Building in Kalispell	Northwest Montana Historical Society	\$72,981.00	\$58,385.00	\$14,596.00	Total Awarded	\$5,449,350
Boulder Hot Springs	Peace Valley Limited Partnership	\$498,500.00	\$498,500.00	\$0.00	Total Difference	\$ 661,774.00
10th Street Bridge in Great Falls	Preservation Cascade, Inc.	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	Percentage of projects awarded	30%
Ringling Mansion in White Sulphur Springs	Sarah C. Calhoun LLC on behalf of the Ringling Mansion	\$89,500.00	\$89,500.00	\$0.00	Percentage of projects awarded reduced funding	35%
Livingston Depot Center	Livingston Depot Foundation, Inc.	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$0.00		
Seeley Lake Historical Museum & Visitor's Center	Seeley Lake Historical Museum & Visitor's Center	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00		
The Heritage Museum in Libby	The Heritage Museum	\$261,300.00	\$229,690.00	\$31,610.00		
Carpenters Union Hall in Butte	Carpenters Union Hall	\$228,600.00	\$228,600.00	\$0.00		
O'Fallon Historical Museum in Baker	Fallon County	\$298,657.00	\$298,657.00	\$0.00		
Paradise Center	Paradise Elementary School Preservation Committee	\$154,025.00	\$123,220.00	\$30,805.00		
Blaine County Museum in Chinook	Blaine County Museum	\$75,300.00	\$60,240.00	\$15,060.00		
Gardiner Community Center	Greater Gardiner Community Council	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00		
Dillon Public Library	Dillon Public Library	\$469,500.00	\$11,447.00	\$458,053.00		
Troy Museum and Visitors' Center	Troy Museum and Visitors' Center	\$4,904.00	\$4,904.00	\$0.00		
Old Town Hall in Shelby	City of Shelby	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00		
Mother Lode Theater in Butte	City-County Butte-Silver Bow	\$500,000.00	\$450,000.00	\$50,000.00		
East Barracks at Fort Owen	Fort Owen State Park	\$81,561.00	\$81,561.00	\$0.00		
Hotel Finlen in Butte	Finlen Properties LLC	\$354,189.00	\$341,189.00	\$13,000.00		
Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman	Museum of the Rockies	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00		
Milwaukee Depot in Missoula	Boone and Crockett Club	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00		
Missoula Art Museum	Missoula Art Museum	\$455,000.00	\$419,000.00	\$36,000.00		
Spotted Bear Ranger Station near Hungry Horse	National Forest Foundation	\$72,200.00	\$72,200.00	\$0.00		



Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG)

Funded Projects - 2023 Biennium



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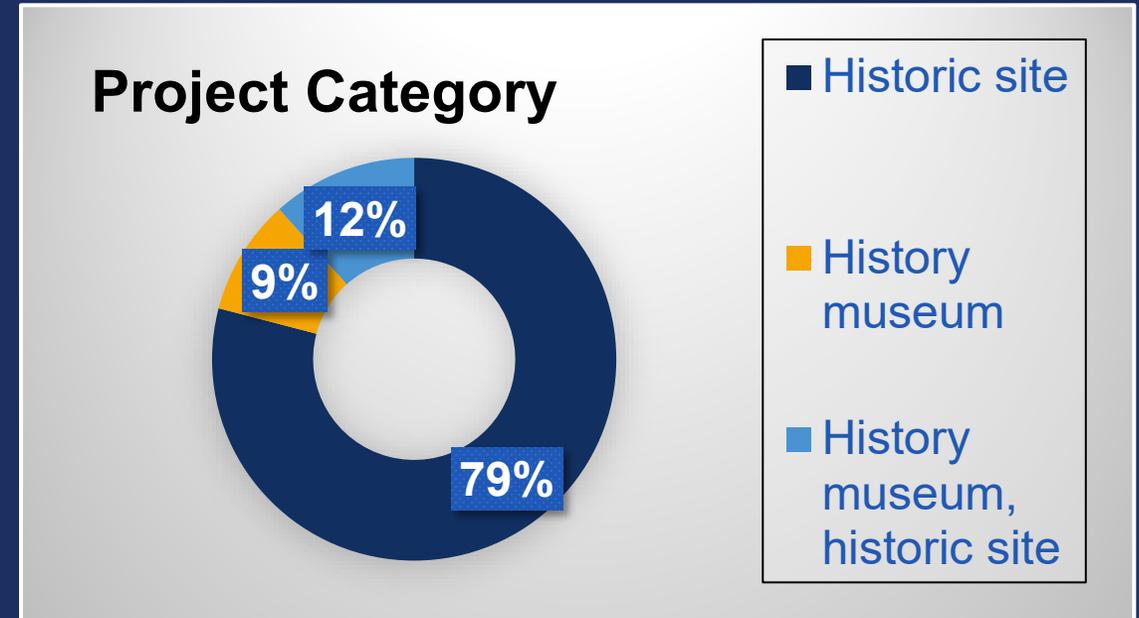
Map produced on 9/12/2025 - MHPG_2023bi_ProjectsFundedByEntity
Data Source: Montana Department of Commerce

Microsoft Edge



Overview of 2025 Biennium Awarded Projects

- **Forty-three** projects awarded in 2025 Biennium
- Total awarded: **\$11,368,044**
- Percentage of awarded projects: **89%**



Project	Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Difference
Harlowton Roundhouse	Harlowton, City of	\$500,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00
Fort Peck Theatre	Fort Peck Fine Arts Council	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Baker State Bank Building	Southeastern Montana Area Revitalization Team (SMART)	\$160,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$0.00
Petroleum County Courthouse	Petroleum County	\$498,720.00	\$498,720.00	\$0.00
Milligan Building	Bighorn Valley Health Center, Inc. dba One Health	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Ringling Church	The Ringling Commons, LLC	\$141,773.00	\$141,773.00	\$0.00
National Museum of Forest Service History	National Museum of Forest Service History	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$0.00
Historic Teslow Grain Elevator	Project49	\$486,102.00	\$392,277.00	\$93,825.00
A.D. Whitcomb Garage	Buses of Yellowstone Preservation Trust, Inc.	\$136,366.00	\$136,366.00	\$0.00
Havre Beneath the Streets	Havre Beneath the Streets	\$359,672.00	\$359,672.00	\$0.00
Hockaday Museum of Art	Hockaday Museum of Art	\$31,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$0.00
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula	Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula	\$272,000.00	\$175,200.00	\$96,800.00
Shelby Town Hal	Shelby, City of	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	\$0.00
Cogswell-Taylor House	Montana Heritage Commission – Cogswell/Taylor House	\$176,562.00	\$141,250.00	\$35,312.00
Rocky Mountain Building	Community Health Care Center, Inc. dba Alluvion Health	\$500,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00
The History Museum	Cascade County Historical Society dba The History Museum	\$340,000.00	\$340,000.00	\$0.00
Copper Village Museum and Arts Center	Copper Village Museum and Arts Center	\$235,000.00	\$235,000.00	\$0.00
Historic Hotel Libby	Friends of Historic Hotel Libby	\$173,659.00	\$173,659.00	\$0.00
Roosevelt Center	Red Lodge Area Community Foundation	\$367,578.00	\$367,578.00	\$0.00
Kelly Block Building	75 Park Street LLC	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Montana Club	Original Montana Club Cooperative Association	\$90,040.00	\$90,040.00	\$0.00
Charles Krug House	Sonja Maxwell	\$145,000.00	\$116,000.00	\$29,000.00
Edwards & McLellan Block	SGS Properties, LLC	\$221,590.00	\$221,590.00	\$0.00
Hickman House	Montana Heritage Commission – Hickman House	\$166,073.00	\$161,201.00	\$4,872.00
Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art	\$300,979.00	\$300,979.00	\$0.00
Billings Depot	Billings Depot, Inc.	\$414,400.00	\$414,400.00	\$0.00
Babcock Theatre	Cine Billings dba Art House Cinema	\$236,000.00	\$236,000.00	\$0.00
Wheeler Cabin	Glacier National Park Conservancy	\$493,200.00	\$493,200.00	\$0.00
Blackfoot Spiritual & Heritage Center	Blackfeet Tribe	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00



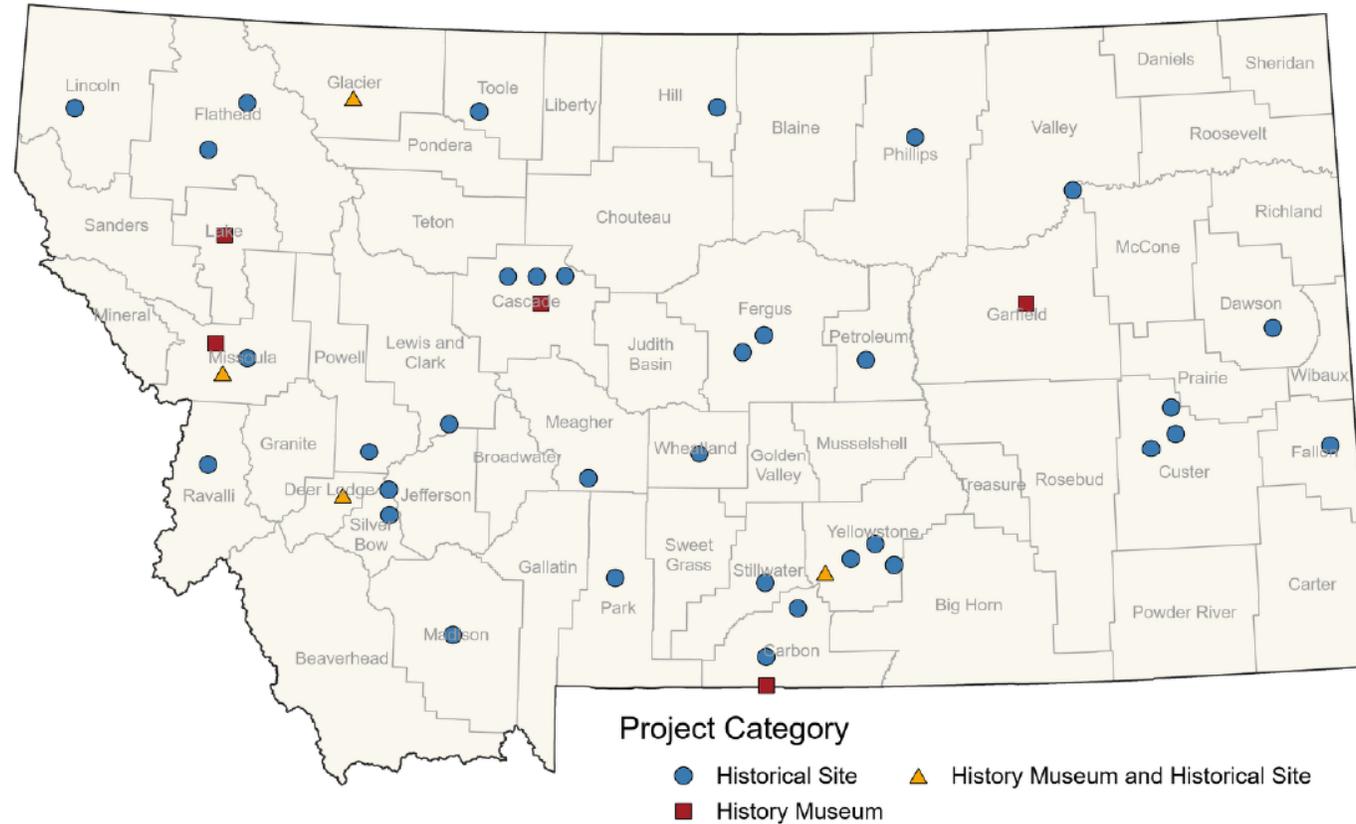
Stillwater County Courthouse	Stillwater County	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Waite House	Yogo Mansion LLC	\$390,000.00	\$270,000.00	\$120,000.00
Moss Mansion	Billings Preservation Society	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Ouellette Place	Homeward, Inc. (Ouellette Place)	\$287,300.00	\$100,000.00	\$187,300.00
Acme Building	Homeward, Inc. (Acme Historic Hotel)	\$321,100.00	\$100,000.00	\$221,100.00
Great Falls Civic Center	Great Falls, City of	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Miles City Convent Keepers Community Center	Miles City Convent Keepers	\$119,688.00	\$119,688.00	\$0.00
Lenox Flats Building	Homeward, Inc. (Lenox Flats)	\$288,330.00	\$100,000.00	\$188,330.00
Miles City Elks Lodge #537	Miles City Elks Lodge #537	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
Daly Mansion	Daly Mansion Preservation Trust	\$266,400.00	\$100,000.00	\$166,400.00
Garfield County Museum	Garfield County	\$500,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00
Deer Lodge City Hall	Deer Lodge, City of	\$283,500.00	\$283,500.00	\$0.00
Joliet Town Hall and Courthouse	Joliet, Town of	\$83,000.00	\$83,000.00	\$0.00
Miracle of America Museum	Miracle of America Museum	\$92,623.00	\$70,351.00	\$22,272.00

2025 Bi - Summary Data	
Average Amount Requested	\$304,262
Average Amount Awarded	\$264,373
Average Difference	\$39,888.63
Total Requested	\$13,083,255
Total Awarded	\$11,368,044
Total Difference	\$1,715,211.00
Percentage of projects awarded	89%
Percentage of projects awarded reduced funding	35%



Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG)

Funded Projects - 2025 Biennium



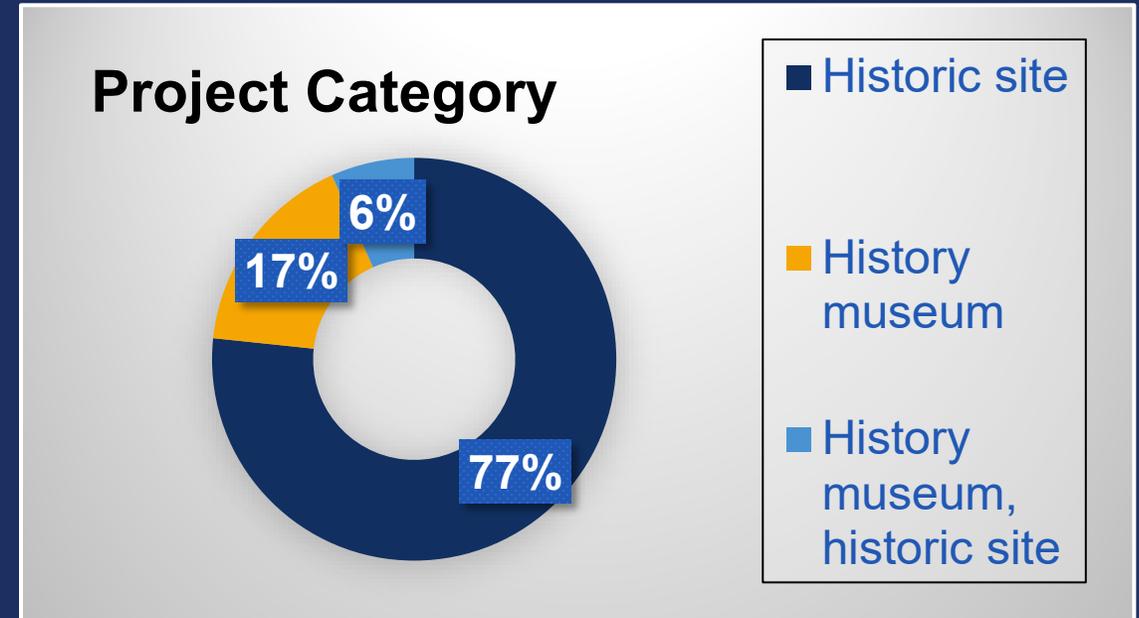
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Map produced on 9/12/2025 - MHPG_2025Bi_ProjectsFundedByCategory
Data Source: Montana Department of Commerce



Overview of 2027 Biennium Awarded Projects

- **Thirty-one** projects awarded in 2027 Biennium
- Total awarded: **\$5,918,092**
- Percentage of awarded projects: **49%**

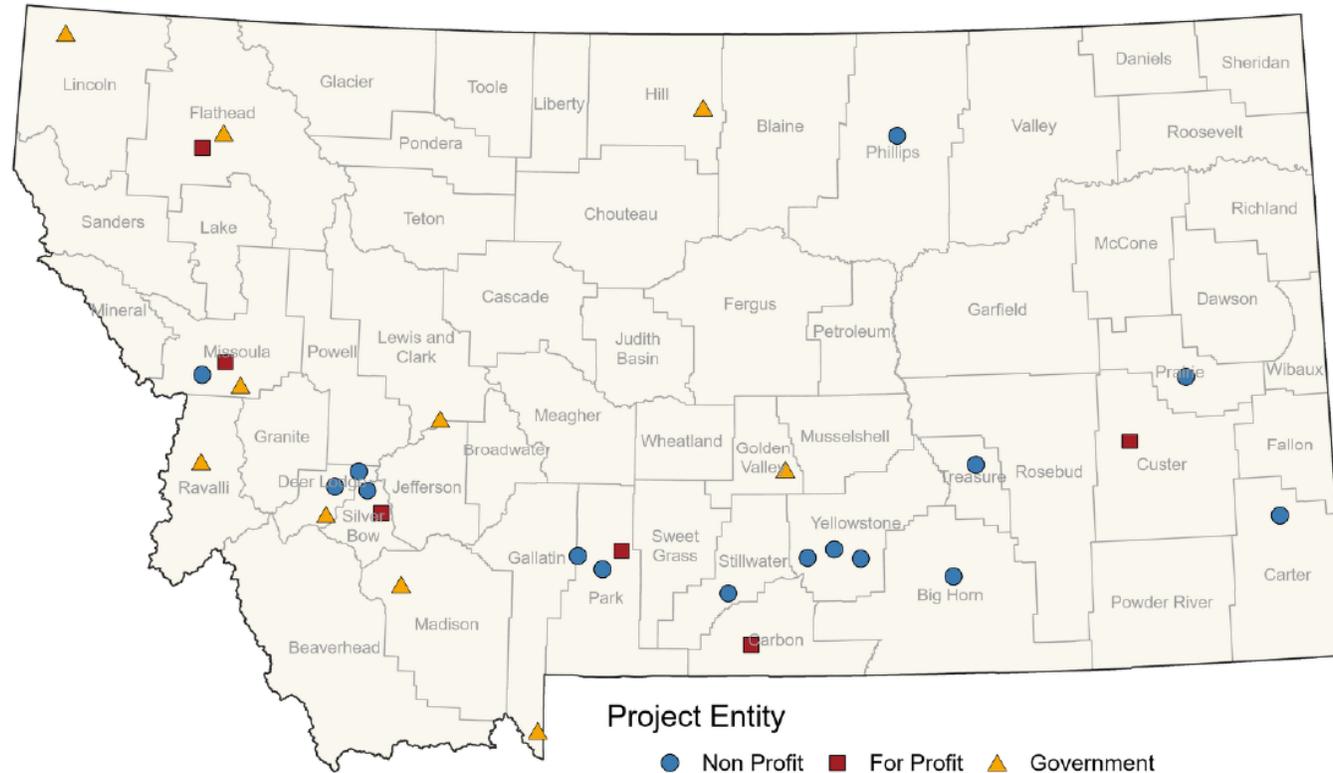


Project	Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Difference	2027 Bi - Summary Data	
					Average Amount Requested	Average Amount Awarded
Carter County Geological Society	Carter County Museum	\$500,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$200,000.00	Average Amount Requested	\$364,846
Lincoln County	Yaak Community Hall	\$168,000.00	\$168,000.00	\$0.00	Average Amount Awarded	\$190,906
Missoula Local Government Building Special District	John Engen Building	\$498,800.00	\$350,000.00	\$148,800.00	Average Difference	\$173,940
Lincoln School Foundation	Lincoln School	\$364,980.00	\$300,000.00	\$64,980.00	Total Requested	\$11,310,228
Moleo Media Group, LLC	KPRK Building	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	Total Awarded	\$5,918,092
Lavina Public Schools	Historic Lavina School	\$398,128.00	\$250,000.00	\$148,128.00	Total Difference	\$ 4,406,390.00
Yellowstone Art Museum	Yellowstone Art Museum Main Building	\$328,000.00	\$210,000.00	\$118,000.00	Percentage of projects awarded	49%
Madison County	Octagonal Pavilion	\$500,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$300,000.00	Percentage of projects awarded reduced funding	90%
Hamilton, City of	Historic Hamilton Town Hall	\$305,607.00	\$150,000.00	\$155,607.00		
Little Big Horn College	Apsáalooke Center for Culture and History	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00		
Hill County	Hill County Courthouse	\$500,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$150,000.00		
Mathson Design, LLC	The Recording Center	\$50,000.00	\$24,600.00	\$25,400.00		
Treasure County 89ers, Inc.	Yucca Theatre	\$145,000.00	\$145,000.00	\$0.00		
Community Thrift LLC	Kalispell Community Thrift/Scandinavian Methodist Church	\$240,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$190,000.00		
Kalispell, City of	Kalispell Train Depot Building	\$286,337.00	\$150,000.00	\$136,337.00		
Native American Development Corporation	Shrine Auditorium	\$500,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$150,000.00		
Lewis & Clark County	Lewis & Clark County Courthouse	\$500,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$200,000.00		
World Museum of Mining	St. Patrick's Mission	\$173,040.00	\$155,000.00	\$18,040.00		
Anaconda Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge 239	Anaconda Elks Club	\$429,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$179,000.00		
West Yellowstone, Town of	Union Pacific Dining Lodge	\$500,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$200,000.00		
Prairie County Museum & Evelyn Cameron Gallery, Inc.	Prairie County Museum & Evelyn Cameron Gallery	\$72,478.00	\$50,000.00	\$22,478.00		
Villa Theatre Foundation	Villa Theatre	\$500,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$400,000.00		
Yellowstone Gateway Museum Foundation	Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County	\$499,620.00	\$200,000.00	\$299,620.00		
Metagabbro LLC	Red Lodge Pea Cannery and Brewery Building	\$500,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$450,000.00		
Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula	St. Michael's Church	\$114,492.00	\$114,492.00	\$0.00		
Sandstone Preservation Community	Sandstone and Cobblestone Schools Complex	\$500,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$350,000.00		
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Courthouse	\$400,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00		
MSTB, LLC	Mountain States Telephone Building	\$500,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$350,000.00		
Anaconda Restoration Association	The Montana Hotel	\$100,746.00	\$51,000.00	\$49,746.00		
Billings Depot, Inc.	Billings Depot Caboose	\$236,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$86,000.00		
Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc., on behalf of S-Team LLC	Butte Steam Plant Event Center	\$500,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$300,000.00		



Montana Historic Preservation Grant (MHPG)

Funded Projects - 2027 Biennium



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Data Source: Montana Department of Commerce



Eligible Applicants: Individuals

- Individuals applying through a fiscal agent
- Individuals applying in coordination with a local government
 - Private residences are encouraged to inquire with Commerce staff regarding eligibility. MHPG projects must ensure that a significant portion of the facility be open to public access and use.
 - Projects that confer only a private benefit are not eligible.



Eligible Applicants: Associations

- For-profit, nonprofit or not-for-profit organizations and businesses



World Museum of Mining, Butte



Eligible Applicants: Governing Units

- Incorporated city or town, county, consolidated government, state and federal agencies
- Representative of a governing unit such as a library or school district
- Tribal government
 - A waiver of sovereign immunity will be required for a tribal government if MHPG funds are awarded.



Additional Considerations for Eligible Applicants

- All applicants must have the management capacity to undertake and satisfactorily complete the project and assure proper management of MHPG funds.
- If the property is not owned by the applicant, the applicant must submit a letter of approval from the property owner.
 - If awarded, the grantee will be the applicant, not the property owner, and a Grant Assistance Agreement will be required to contract with Commerce.



Additional Considerations for Eligible Applicants

- Applicants can apply for more than one project per cycle. A separate application must be submitted for each eligible project.



Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings 



Eligible Project Types

Eligible applicants can apply to complete projects or activities for the preservation of:

- Historic sites, including:
 - A structure or site listed on the national, state or local historic registry
 - A structure or site contributing to a historic district
 - A structure more than 50 years old with a documented significance to the history of a Montana community or region



Eligible Project Types

Eligible applicants can apply to complete projects or activities for the preservation of:

- Historical societies
- History museums



Eligible Project Types

Preservation activities include:

- External repairs or improvements to protect the building envelope, consisting of the structure's walls, roof, doors, windows and/or foundation
- Internal improvements to or installation of utility systems, including electricity, plumbing and heat



Eligible Project Types

Preservation activities include:

- History museums only: improvements that establish or enhance security, climate control or fire protection

Projects with a total cost over \$50,000 may use up to 10% of grant funding for planning and/or grant administration costs that are directly related to the preservation activities A, B or C.



Additional Considerations for Eligible Projects

- Projects should demonstrate a reasonable and achievable budget and implementation schedule.
- Previously awarded projects are eligible for MHPG funding in subsequent cycles. However, during the review process, priority will be granted to projects that did not receive MHPG funding during the preceding cycle.
 - Applicants are encouraged to complete their current grants before re-applying.



Additional Considerations for Eligible Projects

- Project scope of work
 - Proposed preservation projects submitted to the MHPG Program for funding must be comprised of stand-alone activities.



Additional Considerations for Eligible Projects

- Project activities
 - Projects may include multiple activities within the scope of work, but applicants must demonstrate that each activity within the scope of work is necessary for a complete standalone project.
 - Applicants must include a prioritization of project activities or components with funding amounts requested for each activity.



Project Design Considerations

- Projects should adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the related guidelines for preserving, rehabilitating, restoring and reconstructing historic buildings, historic sites, structures, objects and community districts.
- The standards address both exterior and interior historic building work and suggest consistent approaches to treatments and techniques that help maintain the integrity of historic resources.



Eligible Funding and Match Requirement

- Eligible applicants may apply for funding up to \$350,000 per eligible project.
 - Only one application per project is allowed.
 - Previous or current MHPG grantees can apply again.
- Match Requirements
 - A 1-to-1 match of the **total grant request** is required for all for-profit entities.
 - A 20% match of the **total project cost** is required for all other eligible entities.



Eligible Funding and Match Requirement

- Total available funding is derived from the tax collections allocated in 15-68-820(3)(b) and (4)(c), MCA, and deposited into the Historic Preservation Grant Account and further carried out according to the guidance established in Senate Bill 338.



Eligible Match

- Types of eligible match:
 - Cash, grants and/or loans
 - In-kind (**only** one-third of the total match)
 - In-kind contributions are considered at a rate of \$20 per hour.
 - They must be documented; Commerce provides a sample volunteer log.
 - They can include materials. Receipts must be included.



Eligible Match

- Types of eligible match:
 - Previous expenditures are only eligible as matching funds when:
 - Directly related to the preparation of architectural/engineering studies, reports and construction of the proposed project, **and**
 - Completed after Feb. 28, 2025.



Eligible Match

- Applicants do not need to secure match before applying, but documentation of match will be required after MHPG awards are made, and projects with committed match may score higher on the statutory criteria.



Ineligible Match

- Previous expenditures when not directly related to the proposed project
- Previous expenditures completed more than one year prior to the application deadline
- Ongoing or monthly operational costs
- Staff salary



Environmental Review

- No longer required for 2029 Biennium applications



Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Courthouse, Anaconda



Statutory Review Criteria

- A. Purpose and Need
- B. Economic Stimulus or Economic Activity
- C. Shovel Readiness
- D. Historic or Heritage Value



Statutory Review Criteria

E. Organization's Capacity

F. Local Contribution

G. Public Benefit



Statutory Criteria A

Purpose and Need

- Up to 250 possible points

The degree to which the project activity can demonstrate the **purpose and need**. This includes the degree to which the project will provide features that address infrastructure, maintenance or building code issues at historic sites and museums, or establish or enhance security, climate control or fire protection for museums.



Statutory Criteria A

1. Describe the current use and condition of the historic resource.
2. Describe the deficiency the proposed project will address and how this has impacted the historic resource, including the duration of time the deficiency has existed.
3. Describe how the proposed project will address the identified deficiency, including why MHPG funding will enable proper completion of the resource.



Statutory Criteria A

4. Describe the financial need for MHPG grant funds to complete the project.
5. Describe how the proposed project was selected and prioritized in relation to plans to preserve and maintain the historic resource.



Statutory Criteria B

Economic Stimulus or Economic Activity

- Up to 100 possible points

The degree to which the project supports **economic stimulus or economic activity** both during the project and as a result of project completion. This includes job creation and work creation for Montana contractors and service workers.



Statutory Criteria B

1. Describe the economic impact of this project related to job creation for Montana contractors and service workers.
 - A. How many jobs will this project create?
 - B. What types of jobs?
 - C. Explain how this information was gathered.
2. Describe the ongoing economic impact related to facility use or visitation as a result of the proposed project.



Statutory Criteria B

3. Describe how your project relates to community goals and previous or concurrent planning efforts (downtown revitalization plan, growth policy, historic preservation plan, economic development strategy, etc.).
4. Describe your long-term vision for the historic resource and explain how this project fits into organizational plans (strategic, interpretive, business, outreach, etc.).
 - A. Will this project decrease your operating costs, and, if applicable, how will those savings be reinvested?



Statutory Criteria C

Shovel Readiness

- Up to 200 possible points

The **shovel readiness** of the project, including the degree to which timing of the project can be completed without delay, including access to matching funds and approval of permits, if needed.



Statutory Criteria C

1. Describe the organization's capacity and ability to complete the proposed project within the proposed timeline.
2. Describe the status and availability of all matching funds needed to complete the proposed project.



Statutory Criteria C

3. Describe how receipt of MHPG funding will enable the ability to leverage additional funding such as grants, loans and Historic Tax Credits.
4. Describe any potential timeline considerations that are related to permits, environmental considerations or related activities to complete the proposed project.



Statutory Criteria D

Historic or Heritage Value

- Up to 300 possible points

The degree to which the project activity contributes **historic or heritage value**.



Statutory Criteria D

1. Describe the historical context and significance of the historic resource associated with the proposed project, including:
 - A. Heritage value for Montana
 - B. Value to the local community
 - C. Relevant designations or listings
2. If the structure is listed on a local, state or national registry, please include relevant documentation.



Statutory Criteria D

3. Describe how the proposed project will sustain the character-defining features and integrity of the historic resource.
4. Describe how the proposed project will help promote and interpret the heritage value of the historic resource for the public.



Statutory Criteria D

5. Describe how the proposed project will adhere to the appropriate Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
6. If the project type is a historic structure, describe any future plans for the structure and continued commitment to preserving its historic integrity. Confirm that there are no intentions of demolishing the structure or undermining its historic integrity following project completion.



Statutory Criteria E

Organization's Capacity

- Up to 100 possible points

The **organization's capacity**, including the degree to which the applicant demonstrates a successful track record or the experience of the organization managing similar or related projects.



Statutory Criteria E

1. Describe the organizational capacity and experience with similar projects of all project partners.
2. Identify the entity/organization that will administer the grant. If possible, please also identify the primary person(s) responsible for grant management and describe their qualifications and/or experience with grant management.



Statutory Criteria E

3. Describe a recent project completed by the entity/organization that will administer the grant, specifically identifying:
 - A. Any significant barriers or impediments and how your organization overcame them
 - B. Any project delays
 - C. Any changes to the budget
4. If available, provide a copy of your organization's most recent audit or financial documents. Please discuss any unresolved audit or financial issues.



Statutory Criteria F

Local Contribution

- Up to 150 possible points

The degree to which the project shows **local contribution**; for example, monies and letters of support.



Prairie County Museum, Terry 



Statutory Criteria F

1. Describe your community's commitment to the project according to varying levels/types of contribution.
 - A. What degree of local cash has been committed? Describe amounts and types.
 - B. What degree of local in-kind services such as time, labor and materials have been pledged?
 - C. If this is a phased project, describe funds expended through previous phases.



Statutory Criteria F

- D. Which local organizations support the project? Include letters of support from at least three entities, e.g., local businesses, state or local historic preservation officers or organizations, local economic development organizations, city or county officials, etc.
- E. Describe additional efforts to generate public support and awareness of the project. For example, if you have held a public meeting regarding the proposed project, describe attendance, questions raised, etc.



Statutory Criteria G

Public Benefit

- Up to 100 possible points

The degree to which the applicant demonstrates anticipated **public benefit**, including the extent the site or building will be open to the public and the degree of immediate facility use after project completion.



Statutory Criteria G

1. Describe the project's anticipated public benefit.
 - A. Describe the current level of public access and use of the structure, as well as the anticipated accessibility and use upon completion.
 - B. Describe when the facility will be open to the public after completion.
 - C. What proportion of the building will be open to the public upon completion?
 - D. What efforts will be made to make the building accessible to the public?



Selection Process

- Commerce has no decision-making authority over any application and only provides advisory recommendations to the legislature.
- Commerce staff will review applications based on the seven statutory review criteria found in Section 22-3-1306, MCA.
- To facilitate Commerce's review, applications should be organized according to the appendix format outlined in Section V, "Application Submission."



Selection Process

- To prepare the recommendations, Commerce will review all applications in consultation with the Tourism Advisory Council and the State Historic Preservation Office before they are submitted to the Legislature.
- The applicant may not submit any additional information after the application deadline, unless requested by Commerce staff to clarify information already in the application.
- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to testify during the legislative session regarding their projects.**



Application Submission

- Applications are due **Feb. 28, 2026**, and must include the following:
 - **Appendix A:** Application Eligibility Screening Checklist
 - **Appendix B:** MHPG application including responses to Statutory Review Criteria
 - **Table A:** Sample Project Budget
 - **Table B:** Sample Implementation Schedule



Application Submission

- Applications are due **Feb. 28, 2026**, and must include the following:
 - **Supplementary documents:** As applicable, relevant information and associated documents. This information cannot exceed 25 MB in total, except for a formal preliminary architectural report, historic structure assessments or similar reports.



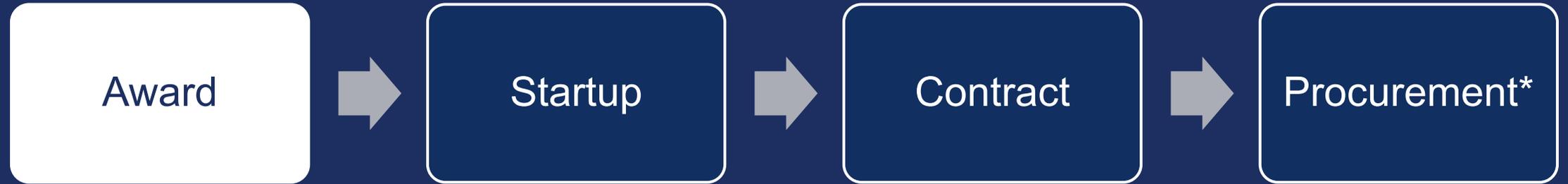
Application Submission

- One electronic copy of the MHPG application, any relevant information such as photos and National Register of Historic Preservation nominations, and associated documents like plans or design documents must be submitted to Commerce.
- To apply electronically, visit [Montana Grants and Loans Portal](#).
 - Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026**.
 - Applications must be submitted through the submission portal.



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium

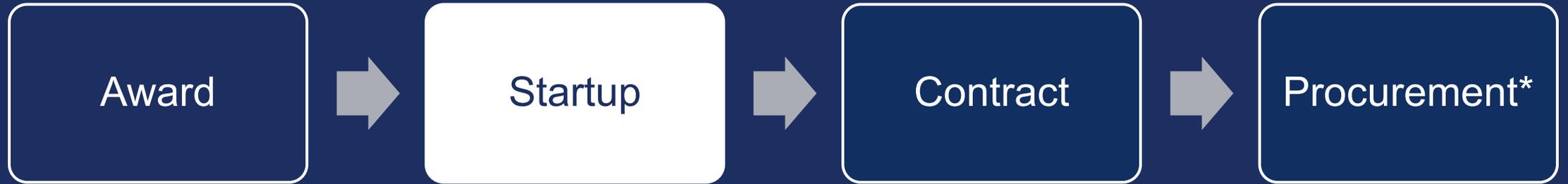


- Effective date of award was May 13, 2025.
- Grantees can begin incurring costs for reimbursement.



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium

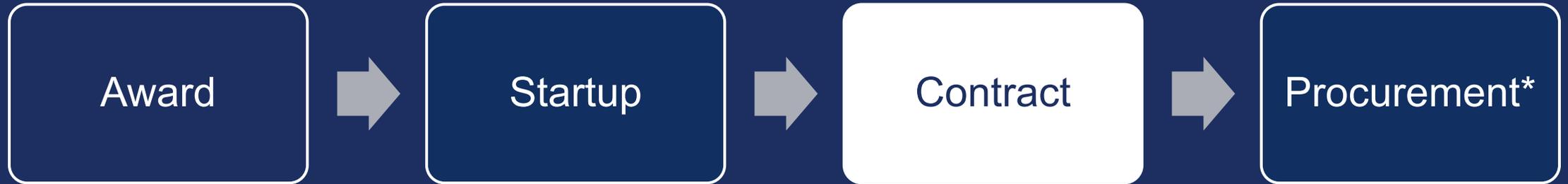


Required documentation to complete startup



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium

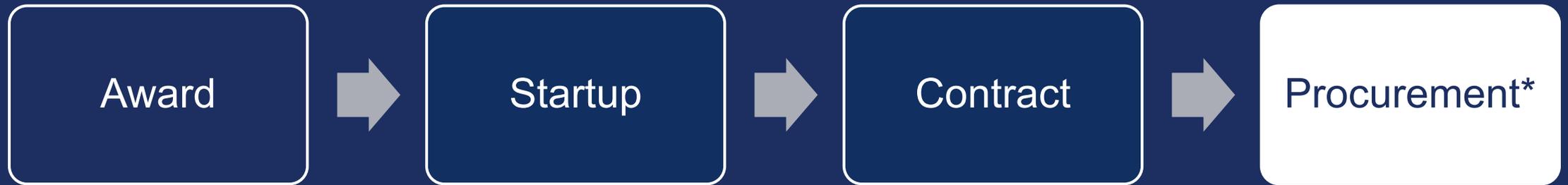


- Execute a contract with Commerce.
- Once this is in place, grantees can begin submitting requests for reimbursement.



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium



Follow appropriate procurement process for services (architect, contractor):

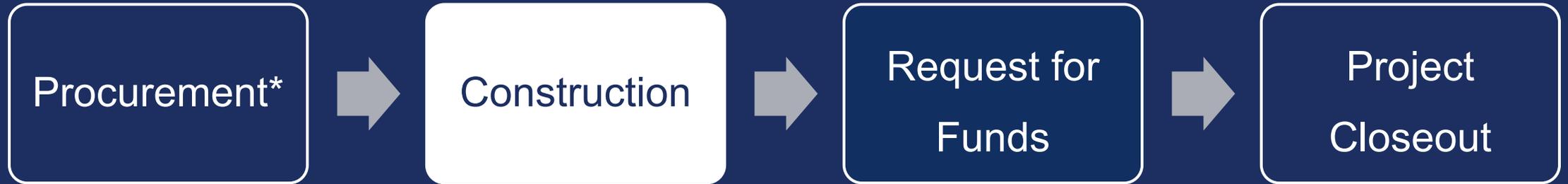
- Small purchase, limited solicitation, formal solicitation or sole source
- Select firm and execute contract

Non-government entities are encouraged but not required to follow procurement.



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium



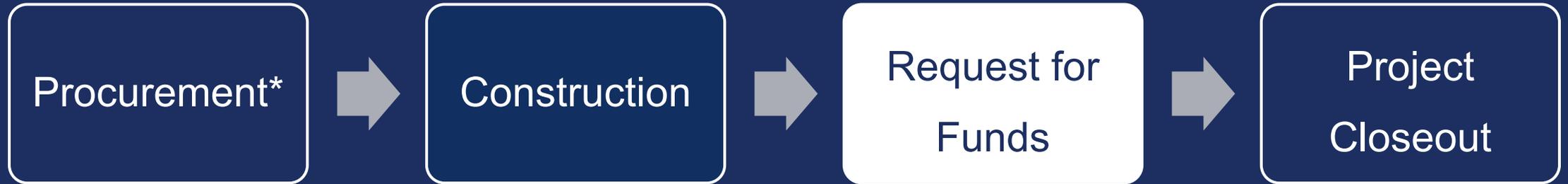
- Undertake project activities
- Receive invoices

State prevailing wage rates may apply to your project.



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium

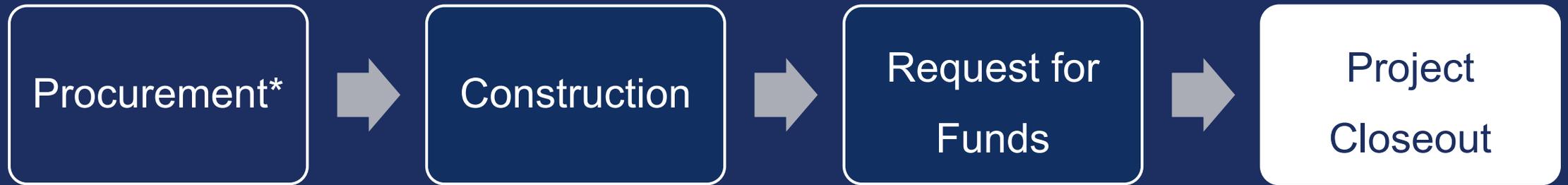


- Request for Funds Form, Progress Report Form, Uniform Invoice Tracking Spreadsheet and applicable invoices
- Commerce will send requested funds **within seven to 10 business days.**



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium

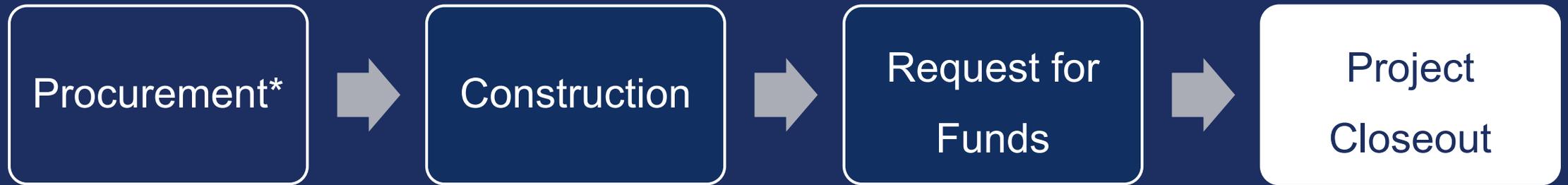


- Architect, engineer or contractor issues **Certificate of Substantial Completion**.
- **Within 60 days**, grantee submits the Project Completion Report to Commerce.



Project Timeline

Based on 2027 Biennium



- **Within 30 days**, Commerce sends **Notification of Project Completion** signifying official closeout of the grant.
- Grantees must retain project records **for five years** from closeout date.



Grant Administration

- The MHPG Project Administration Manual on commerce.mt.gov provides information on how to administer an MHPG project once awarded.
- Commerce will conduct a webinar on grant administration for projects that are awarded.
- MHPG Guidelines, Application, Appendices and Project Administration Manual are on Commerce's website at commerce.mt.gov/infrastructure-planning/grants-loans/montana-historic-preservation-grant.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can MHPG funds be used for operations?

A: Operational expenses are not eligible for funding.



Mountain States Telephone Building, Miles City 



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can an applicant apply for more than one grant?

A: Yes. Multiple applications can be submitted by one applicant for different projects, but multiple applicants cannot apply for the same project. For example, a local government might apply for needed improvements to multiple historic buildings but may not apply for multiple grants for a single building. Similarly, a nonprofit and business cannot both submit applications for the same building or historic site.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are residential properties eligible?

A: Potentially. Projects **are ineligible** if they confer only a private benefit and are not open to the public. Mixed-use properties, including those with housing, **are eligible** provided they demonstrate significant public benefit and are accessible to the public.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will funds be available?

A: Awards will be made during the 2029 legislative session. Once the Legislature passes the bill, it is then submitted to the governor for signature to become effective. The date that the bill becomes effective will be the official award date. After this date, grantees may incur reimbursable project costs. Activity before this date cannot be reimbursed with MHPG funds but can count towards the match. If you are unfamiliar with the legislative process, you can sign up for notifications regarding House Bill 12 at leg.mt.gov.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are funds required up front?

A: No. The MHPG Program does not require funds up front; project funds are disbursed by submitting a request for funds and applicable invoices to Commerce. Projects may have multiple requests for funds depending on the project size, timeline and budget. Typically, invoices require payment within 30 days, allowing time for grantees to submit a request for funds from Commerce before the invoice is due...



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are funds required up front?

A: ... While we do request seven to 10 business days to process requests for funds, our team recognizes the need to expedite these as quickly as possible. With this timeline, the funds will be in the MHPG grantee's bank account with time to pay the contractor. Our team will be in regular communication with each grantee throughout the startup, request for funds and closeout process.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need a strategic plan, operational plan or fully audited financials?

A: No. Applicants are not required to conduct strategic plans, operating plans or fully audited financials to be eligible or competitive for MHPG funding. As part of the application process, providing such materials when available helps set the context of the institution and the project. Applicants should feel comfortable submitting any plans created, whether that is succinct board-created annual strategy or a full-scale strategic plan. If a plan is not available, an organization can articulate its goals in response to the application questions.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I submit supplemental materials, such as photos and letters?

A: Yes. Supplemental materials such as photos, letters of support and National Register of Historic Places nominations can be included with a MHPG application, but they are not required. **However, inclusion of supporting documents may improve scoring within a criterion.** These supplemental materials are helpful because they provide the review team with a sense of the project and its community support, and they substantiate the narrative in the MHPG application...



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I submit supplemental materials, such as photos and letters?

A: ... When considering supplemental materials, please be considerate of the time and attention that the review team puts into each application. For example, applicants are encouraged to submit a couple of key letters of support, such as one from the local government, one from the chamber of commerce and one from the business community, rather than an exhaustive list.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does the legislative process involve?

A: Commerce has no decision-making authority over any application and only provides advisory recommendations to the Legislature. During the legislative session, the Legislature will review Commerce's advisory recommendations and consider each application. During this process, MHPG applicants will have the opportunity to testify on behalf of their project...



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does the legislative process involve?

A: ... MHPG applicants are strongly encouraged to testify and share an overview of their project, its importance, its impact and any applicable updates. Commerce will communicate the date, time and details of this process with MHPG applicants as soon as practicable.



Local Historic Preservation Questions

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Website: mhs.mt.gov/shpo
 - 406-444-7715
 - mtshpo@mt.gov
- It is highly recommended that applicants reach out to their local historic preservation officers.



MHPG Contacts

General Questions

- doccdd@mt.gov
- 460-841-2770

CEV Program Supervisor

Jordan Conley

- jordan.conley@mt.gov
- 406-841-2773

MHPG Program Specialist

Lauren Dean

- lauren.dean@mt.gov
- 406-841-2794

Main Street Program

Coordinator Micky Zurcher

- micky.zurcher@mt.gov
- 406-841-2863

MHPG Important Dates

- The application is open and accessible through the [MHPG website](#) and the [Montana Grants and Loans Portal](#).
- Applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28.**
- Applications must be submitted through the [Montana Grants and Loans Portal](#).

Photos by Dan Armstrong, All Out Aerial and Montana Department of Commerce.