

Diamonds in the Rough Grant 2026 Guidelines

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, OREGON HERITAGE

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department values and serves everyone and is committed to providing safe and equitable access to state parks and agency programs. The department will not tolerate racism, harassment, discrimination, or intimidation in any form.

"Diamonds in the Rough" grants are to restore or reconstruct the facades of buildings that have been heavily altered over the years. The purpose is to return them to their historic appearance and potentially qualify them for historic register designation (local or national).

Grants must be submitted through the [Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Grants Online](#) system.

Grant Timeline:

- Deadline: May 5, 2026 (11:59 pm)
- Notification: End of June, 2026
- Project Start: July 1, 2026 with agreements fully executed and workplan approved.
- Project Completion and Reporting Deadline: April 30, 2027

Financial Information:

AWARD AMOUNT:

Grant funds may be awarded for amounts up to \$20,000. The State Historic Preservation Office attempts to fully funds grant requests. The funding is by reimbursement for work completed.

MATCH:

Grants must be matched 1:1 by the grantee.

- Match can be in the form of cash, in-kind donations and volunteer time.
- Rates for volunteer services may not exceed Oregon minimum wage, except in those instances in which the volunteer is using their professional skills for the grant assisted work. Then, documentation of their rate is required.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Bids and estimates strengthen the grant request when applicable. If awarded the grant requires at least three estimates for work over \$25,000.

GRANT REPORTING AND PAYMENT:

Awarded projects will be the subject of binding agreements between the State and the grantee. Grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursable basis. Details of payment arrangements and grant reporting are included in the grant guidelines.



Eligibility, Standards, Criteria, and Priorities:

ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT ELIGIBILITY:

- Nonprofits, local governments, and private property owners are eligible to apply.
- Buildings must have heavily modified primary facades and
 - Clear evidence that substantial portions of the historic facades are still there, covered by newer materials, or
 - Historic photos or original drawings that provide clear evidence for guiding the restoration/reconstruction. Lower priority will be given to applications that propose work based on speculation or generic designs rather than historical evidence for that specific building.
- Funds from this grant program may not be claimed for the federal rehabilitation tax credits.
- Buildings taking advantage of Oregon's Special Assessment of Historic Properties program may qualify if they meet the "heavily modified primary facade" requirement.
- New additions are not eligible for funding.

PRESERVATION STANDARDS:

All work must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties; see <https://www.nps.gov/crps/tps/rehab-guidelines/index.htm>.

CRITERIA:

- The level of preservation or restoration of character-defining features.
- The project has a well-prioritized, clearly explained work plan with an appropriate level of detail and realistic cost estimates.
- Demonstrated community need for and benefit from the project.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Commercial or public buildings in Certified Local Government communities, designated Main Street areas, or local or National Register of Historic Places listed historic districts are a higher priority.
- Projects that will generate dramatic "before-and-after" results, a high level of transformation are stronger.
- Geographic diversity.
- Project readiness, including matching dollar share in-hand are stronger.

ASSISTANCE:

Please read the Diamonds in the Rough grant guidelines for details on application questions, award process, and grant requirements. For grant questions, translation assistance, and OPRD: Grants Online support, contact: Kuri Gill, kuri.gill@oprд.oregon.gov, 503-986-0685.

