

A black and white portrait of Abraham Lincoln, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. He has a full beard and mustache, and his hair is styled back. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

NHPRC

DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

For more information about the types of awards, including a list of all projects funded since 1976, or about the operations of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, you should visit the National Archives web site and the NHPRC pages at www.archives.gov/nhprc.

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*The
National Historical
Publications and
Records Commission*

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES and Records Administration (NARA) is the repository for documents that record important events in American history and the workings of the Federal Government. From the original charters of freedom to the latest electronic records, NARA holds a small percentage of those documents created by or for Federal agencies. NARA preserves and maintains these materials and makes them available for research.

But not all of the records important to understanding American history, culture, and democracy are under the stewardship of the National Archives.

In fact, the vast majority of our documentary heritage is held by local archives, both public and private, and by state governments. For example, to trace the papers of George Washington in the Revolutionary War, one must access collections in repositories from the National Archives, Library of Congress, and two dozen archives and libraries at state historical societies, state archives, state libraries, several universities, and other institutions.

On another level, individuals seeking to trace their own histories—their genealogies and the records of their families' emigration, property, military service, and civil rights—may find some of those records through the National Archives, but that history may be embedded in repositories scattered throughout the nation.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is a link between the National Archives and state and local archives in virtually every community in the United States. Through its grants for *preserving* and *publishing* records in repositories beyond those held by the Federal Government, the NHPRC increases the store of knowledge for all Americans. It serves the public interest by expanding access to more documents vital to citizens' rights and understanding of American history.

To apply for grants from the NHPRC, you may visit our web site at www.archives.gov/nhprc and click on "Grant Announcements" or use *Grants.gov*—the Federal Government's one-stop home for grant opportunities.

HOW IT WORKS

Congress appropriates funds for the NHPRC's grantmaking program each year. Since 1964, it has made a total of approximately \$168 million available, and the NHPRC has funded some 4,200 projects from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the territories, and other special jurisdictions. A list of those projects, organized by state, is available on our web site at www.archives.gov/nhprc.

Every year, the NHPRC issues "grant announcements" on its web site and on www.grants.gov. These funding opportunities are designed to further our two major objectives of preserving and publishing historical records. State agencies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals are eligible to apply for grants to support their projects to preserve and/or publish historical records. Those applications are reviewed by panels of citizens with expertise in history and archival processes, and their recommendations are forwarded to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Fifteen individuals make up the Commission, and it is one of a handful of public agencies with representatives from all three branches of the Federal Government. Representatives from major associations representing history, archives, and state governments are also included.

The Commission confers on policy and grant applications and furthers its recommendations to the Archivist of the United States, who, in turn, awards grants against available funds.

GETTING STARTED WITH GRANTS.GOV

Grants.gov provides a single electronic connection between grant applicants and the Federal agencies that manage grant funds. Rather than search multiple sites, your institution can sign up at *Grants.gov* to get automatic e-mail alerts about grant opportunities of interest to your organization. *Grants.gov* will provide you with access to every grant opportunity from the Federal Government, not just those from the NHPRC.

There are a few simple steps to take:

1. Register (or verify your institution's registration) with *Grants.gov*

In many cases, the person who registers with *Grants.gov* will not be the project director. Particularly in large organizations, registration will need to be completed by an institution's grants administrator, sponsored research official, or authorizing official.

We recommend that institutions complete registration at least two weeks before the application deadline, and if you have problems registering, call the *Grants.gov* help desk at 1-800-518-4726.

2. Download the PureEdge Viewer

This free software, available on *Grants.gov*, will enable your organization to fill out, save, and submit applications online.

3. Submit your Application via *Grants.gov*

All NHPRC grant announcements for projects with deadlines in 2006 and beyond contain complete instructions on how to apply via *Grants.gov*. You will be able to download all of the necessary forms, and you will be asked to attach documents you create—such as a Project Narrative—with your submission.

When your application is complete and ready for submission, simply reconnect with the Internet and click the submit button. (In some cases, your Registered Authorizing Official may need to submit for your organization.) *Grants.gov* will guide you through the process and provide tracking information of your submitted application.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Archival and Records Projects

Projects to preserve and facilitate the use of historical records held by archives and other repositories and to assure their long-term preservation.

Commission grants help archives, colleges and universities, and historical societies develop archival and records management programs, acquire historical records, assess records conditions and needs, preserve documents, and improve access to and promote use of archival holdings. Beginning in FY 2007, the NHPRC will also fund pilot projects for Digitizing Historical Records.

Electronic Records Projects

Efforts by archivists and other records managers to meet the challenges of a proliferation of electronic records.

Commission-supported projects explore what is necessary to manage electronic records in accord with archival requirements. Beginning in FY 2007, the Commission will give priority to three types of projects: Building Institutional Capacity for electronic records management; Professional Development for the field of electronic records; and Developing Cooperative Institutions, including consortia, to support electronic records program development.

State Board Collaborative and Subgrant Projects

Grants to State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRABs) for planning and statewide services, including subgrants to local archives.

Commission grants fund state planning efforts examining the condition of records, providing vital information about records holdings and needs throughout the country, and identifying shared

challenges and opportunities. Collaborative projects promote public education about records preservation, help institutions and organizations provide archival training, and undertake national conferences and other collaborative efforts on many issues of common concern to archivists and record keepers across the country.

State Board Administrative Support

Small grants in support of SHRAB administrative activities.

Publishing Historical Records

Projects to publish historical records significant to public understanding of the history and culture of the United States.

The Commission supports projects that publish historical documents important for the comprehension and appreciation of the history of the United States. The projects cover a broad sweep—from politics and the military to business history, reform efforts, and the arts. Produced under modern, rigorous documentary editing standards, Commission-sponsored documentary projects make important materials from all periods of American history available to the public.

Publishing Historical Records-Founding Era

A subcategory of the Publishing Historical Records project is dedicated to projects on the Founding Era of the United States. This grant category is limited to the papers of George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and records that document the Ratification of the Constitution and the First Federal Congress.

Publication Subventions

Small grants open only to NHPRC-supported or endorsed documentary editions to encourage the widest possible distribution of these volumes, through assistance to nonprofit presses.

Professional Development

To encourage the professional development of documentary editors, the NHPRC funds the annual Institute for Documentary Editing in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society. When funds are available, the Commission also offers a number of documentary editing fellowships through our sponsored projects. See also our announcement for an Archives Leadership Institute.

