



*Maine Historical Records
Advisory Board*

2014-15
HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS
GRANT PROGRAM
BASIC GRANTS

AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIONS
CIVIL WAR-RELATED COLLECTIONS
GENERAL ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Welcome to the Historical Records Collections Grant Program for the preservation of archival collections! Any subject area is eligible, but agricultural and Civil War collections are especially encouraged.

This is a collaborative effort of the Maine State Archives and the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. Funding for the grant program comes from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

This packet contains information and a simple application form for applicants requesting up to \$1,000. There is a separate application for larger projects.

New to grants? Wondering if a project you are thinking about might be eligible? Confused by any part of the application? Just contact:

Maine State Archives
287-5790

Check our Web site for helpful hints, FAQs, and sample grant applications:
<http://www.state.me.us/sos/arc/mhrab/grants.html>

We look forward to working with you!

Dave Cheever
Maine State Archivist

Guide to the Historical Records Collections Grant Program: Basic Projects

Introduction

I. Application Information

A. Organization Eligibility

B. How can I strengthen my application?

C. Funding Amounts and Required Community/In-kind Match

D. Project Timing

E. What is eligible?

F. What is NOT eligible?

G. Examples of Projects

II. Application Forms

A. Cover Sheet

B. Project Narrative

C. Worksheets

D. Budget

Historical Records Collections Grant Program: Basic Projects

INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this program is to preserve Maine's significant historical records (archives) and make them available to the public.

Projects dealing with *agricultural* collections and *Civil War* collections are especially encouraged because

Maine has a rich agricultural heritage, but many of its farms are now disappearing.

Collecting and cataloging agricultural collections will help ensure that the records of that heritage do not disappear.

There is heightened interest in Civil War records because of the Civil War sesquicentennial, providing an opportunity for repositories to highlight those collections. It is important that they are properly housed, organized, and made known to researchers in order to make good use of them without harming the collections.

Guiding concepts

In general, the Board favors the following approaches:

- Basic preservation steps, not intensive item-level conservation work.
- Describing your archival collection should be a logical process: A basic inventory of the entire collection, followed by a basic level of organization (description at the collection or series level; housed appropriately) before doing folder or item-level description. This program does not normally fund item-level description, except for photographs, which may be described individually at a basic level.
- Preservation of original information over preservation of the object.
- Cost effective approaches to the preservation of information.
- Digitization can be an effective method for improving access to a collection, but for most media, it is not a preservation method. Any digitization projects should also insure that the originals are archivally housed and are monitored.

I. APPLICATION INFORMATION

A. Who is eligible?

Local governments (towns, cities, counties) that comply with the *Rules for Disposition of Local Government Records*¹;

Non-profit organizations that are

- collecting organizations (e.g., historical societies, libraries, or museums) that have a mission statement and a collections policy [include with application], *or*
- organizations preserving institutional records (e.g., a grange) that have a mission statement [include with application];

State agencies whose responsibilities include caring for a historic collection.

In addition

- There must be a designated staff person or volunteer who cares for the collection.
- A person involved in the project must have had archival training that is relevant to the project, such as workshops, formal education, etc.
- Collections must be made available to the public by the end of the project by scheduled hours or appointment.

B. How can I strengthen my application?

Preference is given to projects that:

- use cost-effective approaches to preserving original information and making it available to researchers
- are part of a plan to place the entire collection of a repository under intellectual control as opposed to doing detailed work on a small portion of the collection

Projects are also preferred that:

- deal with historically significant collections
- address threats to collections (e.g., from environmental conditions, anticipated overuse)
- demonstrate the organization's ability to sustain a commitment to its collections and maintenance of its facilities
- preserve collections relating to agriculture or the Civil War

¹ Available online at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/29/255/255c010.doc>.

C. Funding Amounts and Required Community/In-kind Match

Grant Amounts

Grant awards will be for amounts up to \$1000. There is a separate application for projects in the \$1000 to \$2500 range.

Restrictions

All purchases made with grant funds and all matching contributions must be made during the grant period and must be directly associated with the project. Grant funds may not be used to pay for existing supplies or previous work. Grant funds may not be used to pay existing staff salaries, but may be used to pay someone who usually volunteers, or who is working beyond their regular hours.

Required Match

The applicant must supply a 1:1 in-kind or cash match. This means that for every \$1 of grant money, the applicant supplies \$1 of in-kind or cash match. Ineligible items may demonstrate commitment to the project, but may not be included as match in the budget. Although not required, the Board would prefer to see some of the match as cash for organizations with at least one full-time paid staff person.

In-kind (non-cash) match may include:

- portion of staff salaries devoted to the project;
- volunteer time (budget at the pay rate you would expect to have to pay someone);
- supplies or services that are donated, or supplies that were previously purchased;
- overhead (electricity, basic phone service, etc.): a maximum of 10% of the grant amount;
- donated housing or meals for a consultant or worker.

Cash match may include payment for:

- supplies, services, minor equipment;
- consultants, consultant expenses, or additional staff;
- additional hours from an existing employee.

Applicants are encouraged to involve local communities for in-kind support (i.e.: town donates the use of a copy machine; a local business donates acid-free paper, etc.).

D. Project Timing

Application Postmark Deadline:	Earliest Start Date:	Project must be completed by*:
May 1, 2015	June 15, 2015	May 31, 2016
August 1, 2015	September 15, 2015	May 31, 2016
October 1, 2015	November 15, 2015	May 31, 2016
February 1, 2016 (<i>tentative, depending on availability of funds</i>)	March 15, 2016	June 15, 2016

* Because of Federal deadlines, it is unlikely that additional time can be granted.

Organizations may submit only one application at a time. Applicants do not have to finish a project before submitting another application; projects may run concurrently. If the applicant does have an active project funded through this program, include a status report on that project with the application.

E. What materials are eligible?

Original historical records, usually unpublished, including:

- manuscripts (diaries, letters, etc., whether hand- or type-written, or in electronic form)
- accounting records (bound ledgers, account books, computer spreadsheets)
- photographic prints and negatives (slides are not eligible)
- architectural and engineering drawings and blueprints
- audio tape recordings, existing oral histories
- motion picture films and video tapes
- local government records scheduled to be retained permanently
- materials that may have been published and had limited distribution (such as postcards, stereo views, and maps)
- paper-based ephemera (documents with one time use: posters, invitations, etc.)
- scrapbooks containing original historical records.

F. What is not eligible?

- Major capital equipment or computers, cameras, software, etc. However, minor capital equipment which furthers the preservation of collections, such as environmental monitors, archival-quality shelving, flat files, and map cases, is eligible.
- building, architectural or landscape restoration
- exhibitions or publishing projects, whether traditional or Web based
- complete restoration (unbinding, deacidifying, and rebinding) of bound manuscripts²
- photographic slides
- museum objects or most published materials.

With the exception of photograph collections, *item-level cataloging is not normally supported by this program*. If you are cataloging at the item level (as opposed, for example, to the folder or series level), you must justify that approach.

G. Examples of Projects

- purchase storage materials (acid-free folders and boxes, photo sleeves, etc.) and archival quality shelving to rehouse a collection
- hire an archivist to create a finding aid for a large collection
- hire an archivist to make recommendations for organizing and storing your collections
- make archival copies of a photograph collection
- microfilm unique important records, including town records [special worksheet required: call 287-5790 or go to Web site]

Please Note: Although digitizing may be used to improve access to a collection, it is generally not considered a preservation medium. **Any projects involving digitizing must be justified within the context of overall collections care.**

² Microfilming is the most cost-effective way to preserve the information contained in the record books and is covered by the grant program.

**HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM
BASIC PROJECT APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

Applicant Organization: _____
 Contact person: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____

Phone number and hours available: _____
 FAX: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Do you have a formally adopted Collections Policy? YES NO (*circle one*)
 Date of Adoption _____ *Please submit first page*

Project Title _____
 Brief (15-75 words) description of your project: _____

Budget

- 1. Grant money requested: _____
- 2. In-kind match: _____
- 3. Cash Match: _____
- TOTAL cost of project: _____
(add 1-3)

Project Dates (See Section D "Project Timing" in the Guide.)

Beginning Date: _____
 End Date: _____

Signature of Authorized Official (e.g., Executive Director, President of Board)

Name	Title	Date
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Have you included the following?

- Cover sheet
- Project narrative
- Budget (accompanied by Microfilming Worksheet for filming projects)
- Mission statement and First page of Collections policy OR Eligibility Form for Local Government Records (#1 of Project Narrative)
- Resume(s) or description of experience (#4 of Project Narrative)
- Letter(s) of support from any essential collaborators

Sample applications and recommended approaches are available upon request or on the web site (<http://www.state.me.us/sos/arc/mhrab/grants.html>).

Postmark deadlines

May 1, 2015; August 1, 2015; October 1, 2015; February 1, 2016 (*tentative*)

Please send completed application to:

Historical Records Collections Grant Program
 Maine State Archives, #84 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0084



HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM

BASIC PROJECTS: NARRATIVE

Please answer the following questions in a page or two. Normally, a single page will not be sufficient unless you are doing a very simple project. Certain items may be more applicable to some projects; response length may vary. You do not have to use this form, as long as you follow this format, and reply to each question. If you have any questions about the application, don't hesitate to contact Maine State Archives (287-5790).

1. Eligibility Enclosures

- a. Collecting Organizations (historical societies, museums, etc.): Mission Statement and the first page of the Collections Policy. Libraries should submit the portion of their Collections Policy that relates to their archival material.
- b. Local Governments: Eligibility Form for Local Government Records (available on Web site or by request)
- c. Organizations preserving institutional records (e.g., a local grange): Mission Statement

2. Please describe the Collection involved in the project --give a brief description of its size, format, dates, and content. (If you wish, you can fill out the Worksheet instead.)

3. What are you planning to do during the project? (If you wish, you can fill out the Worksheet instead.)

4. Personnel: Who in your organization is in charge of the archival collection? Describe the archival training of the main person/ people who will be involved in the project.

C. Worksheet for Project Narrative Questions #2 and #3

These items are central to our ability to review your project. You can enclose this worksheet as an answer to #2 and #3, include it in addition to writing out an answer; or just use this information to help you write an answer.

#2. Describe the collection involved in the project

- Size of the collection (specific numbers). Select the most convenient measurement; do not count the same materials twice.

_____ linear feet _____ letter-size file drawers _____ boxes
_____ cubic feet _____ legal-size file drawers _____ other (specify)

- Which of the following types of materials are in the project collection? (*circle all that apply*)

manuscripts photographs motion picture films postcards
diaries blueprints video tapes stereo views
bound ledgers maps tape recordings town/county records
other (specify):

- Which materials predominate? _____

- Dates covered in the collection: Earliest year _____ Latest year _____

- Most (bulk) of the collection: Earliest year _____ Latest year _____

- Content

What subjects are covered? (*circle*)

African Americans Genealogy Politics, government, law
Agriculture Labor Revolutionary War
Arts and architecture Local history Civil War
Business/industry/ manufacturing Maritime Science and technology
Medicine and health care Military Social service/charitable org.
Environment/natural resources Native Americans Education
Transportation and communication Religion Women
Other (specify):

- What subjects predominate?

- What is the collection's historical significance? Why is it important in Maine history?

- Threats (if any) to the collection:

- What is the relationship of the project collection to the entire archival collection? (size, dates, etc.) E.g., "Our project collection comprises about 10% of our entire collection; but is the most important and most used of our collections."

**HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM
PROJECT BUDGET FORM**

Organization: _____

You do not have to use this sheet, as long as you follow this format. If your project involves microfilming, request a **Microfilming Worksheet**. Please outline the funds required to carry out your project, keeping in mind funding eligibility rules.

Total Project Costs: Total estimated budget to carry out your project.

Cash Match: Cash your organization will contribute to the project.

In-Kind Match: In-kind services your organization will give as part of the matching requirement.

Grant Funds Requested: The amount you are requesting from the grant program.

	TOTAL Project Costs	Less Cash Match	Less In-Kind Match	=	Grant Funds Requested
A. Project Staff (paid and volunteer) <i>*Required* Name; time x rate</i>				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
B. Travel -- Destination; distance x \$.44; other travel expenses (<i>specify</i>)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
C. Supplies and materials -- items, cost (remember to include shipping costs)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
D. Services (telephone, postage, printing, etc.)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
E. Microfilming (<i>Separate worksheet must be filled out for microfilming costs. Enter the total here.</i>)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
F. Other costs (specify)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
TOTAL	A)			=	B)

Maximum Grant Amount (B) = 50% of Total Project costs (A)