



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H36(2256)

MAR 27 2015

Dear SHPOs:

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) apportionment to SHPOs for Fiscal Year 2015, based on the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, enacted as P.L. 113-235, has been signed. Attached is a signed copy of the document.

The Department of Interior now requires that all grant applications be submitted through Grants.gov. The website for Grants.gov is [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Instructions for submitting your FY 2015 HPF Application, including step by step instructions for using Grants.gov, are included with this letter, and are also found on our website at <http://www.nps.gov/shpo/grants.html>. After you log into Grants.gov, you will search for funding opportunity number **P15AS00020**. Your computer will need to be running the latest version of Adobe Reader in order to complete and submit the application. You can download the latest version of Adobe Reader at [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html).

States must continue to use HPF Online to submit their Project Activity Database Reports and Cumulative Product Table projections, as well as to complete your End of Year Reports. As always, your FY 2014 End of Year Report must be submitted and approved prior to approval of your FY 2015 Annual Grant.

We have implemented some new policies with in 2015, reflecting changes in the new OMB Omniscircular covering grants administration (2 CFR Part 200), and efforts to streamline general grants administration.

- 2 CFR Part 200 changes the Single Audit Threshold to \$750,000 (formerly \$500,000)
- 2 CFR Part 200.414(f) allows any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate to charge a de minimis rate of 10% which may be used indefinitely
- Beginning in FY 2015, grantees will be required to submit 2 (formerly 3) copies of publications funded by the grant
- Beginning in FY15, the requirement for Project Notifications and Final Project Reports for subgrants greater than \$25,000 is eliminated, except in the case of 1) development projects and 2) projects impacting National Historic Landmarks.

Finally, NPS attorneys have advised us that our grantees may award development grants to religious properties in accordance with the Act and current legal opinions. The special condition on religious properties in your FY15 HPF grant agreement has been revised to state:

Religious institutions may participate in the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 101(e)(4) (54 U.S.C. 302905).

which authorizes certain grants for religious properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Religious properties listed in the National Register are eligible to participate in this grant assistance program because the federal government has a strong interest in preserving all sites of historic significance regardless of their religious or secular character: because eligibility for this program extends to a broad class of beneficiaries defined without reference to religion; and because the criteria for funding must be applied neutrally. These elements show that this grant program is aimed solely at preserving historic structures and does not constitute an endorsement of religion by the government.

If you have questions about any of this, please feel free to contact me or your NPS Grant Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hampton Tucker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hampton Tucker  
Chief, State, Tribal, and Local Plans & Grants