

Contact Information

Please contact one of the NPS regional representatives below if you have any questions.

Intermountain Region

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Midwest Region

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Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

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Public Law 117-328 Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Photos courtesy of Densho.



In 2006, President George W. Bush signed Public Law 109-441 (120 STAT 3288), which authorized the National Park Service to create a grant program to encourage and support the preservation and interpretation of historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. This law authorized up to \$38 million for the life of the grant program.

Since the first grants were awarded in 2009, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program has supported 302 projects across the country, totaling more than \$41 million in funding to private nonprofit organizations; educational institutions; state, local, and tribal governments; and other public entities.

The success of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program is illustrated by broad community support and the commitment and dedication of grant recipients who have worked diligently to leverage federal dollars with their own resources and develop lasting partnerships to preserve and interpret these nationally significant sites and stories.

Grant Program Reauthorized

With the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-328), Congress reauthorized the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. This legislation also established the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants; a new category of grants that will be

administered through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

Seeking Public Comment

Over the next few months, the National Park Service will conduct an outreach effort to gather input from Japanese American communities and eligible organizations to help shape the guidelines and criteria for these new grants.

We invite you to learn more about the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants by reviewing the enclosed information. Please visit the National Park Service's project website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/JACE> to share your input regarding this new component of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

Legislation Establishing the New Education Grants (Excerpt)

Public Law 109-441 (as amended by Sec 644 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, titled the NORMAN Y. MINETA JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION GRANTS.)

(4) JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION GRANTS.—The term ‘Japanese American Confinement Education Grants’ means competitive grants, awarded through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Program, for Japanese American organizations to educate individuals, including through the use of digital resources, in the United States on the historical importance of Japanese American confinement during World War II, so that present and future generations may learn from Japanese American confinement and the commitment of the United States to equal justice under the law.

(5) JAPANESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Japanese American organization’ means a private nonprofit organization within the United States established to promote the understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by illustrating the Japanese American experience throughout the history of the United States.

SECTION 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.— There are authorized to be

appropriated to the Secretary \$80,000,000 to carry out this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(b) JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT EDUCATION GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under this section, not more than \$10,000,000 shall be awarded as Japanese American Confinement Education Grants to Japanese American organizations. Such competitive grants shall be in an amount not less than \$750,000 and the Secretary shall give priority consideration to Japanese American organizations with fewer than 100 employees.

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) FIFTY PERCENT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for funds awarded under this subsection, the Secretary shall require a 50 percent match with non-Federal assets from non-Federal sources, which may include cash or durable goods and materials fairly valued, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under subparagraph (A), if the Secretary determines that—

(i) no reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement; and

(ii) the probable benefit of the project funded outweighs the public interest in the matching requirement.

Please visit the following website for the full legislation text: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/JACE>.

What Does this Legislation Mean for the Current JACS Grant Program?

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-328) reauthorizes the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program and authorizes an additional \$42 million in funds. This increases potential funding for the program from its original authorization of \$38 million to a total of \$80 million. The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program will continue to operate as it has for the last 14 years, awarding grants each fiscal year as funds become available through annual appropriations made by Congress. Current program requirements and



Photo courtesy of Densho, Takasugi Family Collection.

guidelines will remain the same. For additional information about the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, please visit: www.nps.gov/jacs.

What Is New?

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (Public Law 117-328) created the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants; a new category of grants to be awarded through the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

The legislation established the following key provisions for the education grants:



Photos courtesy of (left to right) National Park Service, Densho, and Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition.

- New education grants will be administered by the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.
- New education grants will fund large educational projects with a minimum grant funding request amount of \$750,000.
- No more than \$10 million may be awarded for new education grants throughout the life of the JACS grant program.
- Eligible applicants will be limited to Japanese American organizations, defined as: “a private nonprofit organization within the United States established to promote the understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by illustrating the Japanese American experience throughout the history of the United States.”
- When making awards, priority consideration will be given to Japanese American organizations with fewer than 100 employees.
- Each education grant requires a 2:1 Federal to non-Federal match; that is, to receive two dollars of Federal funds at least a one-dollar non-Federal match is required.
- The Secretary of the Interior has the discretion to waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Secretary determines the applicant has no reasonable means to generate the required non-Federal match and

the probable benefit of the project funded outweighs the public interest in the matching requirement.

Timeline for Norman Y. Mineta JACE Grants

- Summer 2023—Open public comment period on new education grants.
- Summer 2023—Reach out to eligible organizations for input.
- Fall 2023—Develop new education grant criteria and guidelines.
- Winter 2023/24—Finalize new education grant criteria and guidelines.
- Spring 2024—Announce the new grant opportunity and post application materials on the JACS Grant Program website. Review education grant proposals.
- Summer 2024—Award first round of new education grant projects.

Share Your Thoughts

In addition to the key provisions established by the legislation, we are seeking your comments to help us develop guidelines and evaluation criteria for the Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants.

We would like to hear your input on the following questions:

- 1) What specific criteria should the JACS Grant Program consider when evaluating new education grant projects?
- 2) What factors should be considered when developing the administrative guidelines for these new education grants?
- 3) Do you have any other suggestions or comments related to this new education grant component that would be useful for us to know?

Please submit your suggestions electronically on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website by following the instructions listed below:

- Visit the following website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/JACE>.
- Select the project titled, “Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Grants” under the box at the bottom of the page.
- Select “Open for Comment” from the menu on the left side of the screen.
- Click on the document, read the instructions, and insert the requested information and your comments.
- Click on the “Submit” button at the bottom of the screen when complete.

The deadline to submit comments is **Friday, September 15, 2023.**