



Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy Grants for Historic Properties Questions and Answers

1. What is the source of the grant funds?

In January 2013, the U.S. Congress passed a supplemental appropriations [bill](#) to provide assistance to states affected by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy. The legislation included \$50 million from the federal [Historic Preservation Fund](#) for disaster assistance in 12 states and the District of Columbia. After the mandatory sequestration impacting Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations, the amount of available funds was reduced to \$47.5 million. The majority of these funds will go to the four states that were hardest hit by the storm: New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The remaining funds, \$9 million, will be divided among the other eligible recipients: Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

2. How much is available to help Delawareans?

Delaware is eligible to receive up to \$1.5 million. The Department of the Interior's [National Park Service](#), the federal agency that is overseeing this grant program, will make awards based on need as expressed in the states' respective grant applications.

3. Who decides how the grants will be awarded?

The National Park Service is working with the affected states to make funds available. Each state must set up its own grant program and establish criteria for grant funding. In Delaware, the [Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#) will administer the grant program.

4. What kinds of historic properties may be eligible for assistance?

The storm-damaged property must be:

- Individually listed in the [National Register of Historic Places](#) or
- A contributing building in a National-Register-listed historic district or
- Formally determined eligible for listing in the National Register. (Note that preference will be given to those properties that do not need to be evaluated for National Register eligibility.)

5. How do I find out if my property is listed in, or eligible for, the National Register?

You can contact the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs at 302-736-7400, look online at the division's [Cultural and Historic Resources Information System](#) or look online at the National Register's [resource search engine](#).

6. Does it matter who owns the property?

Eligible properties may be privately-owned, owned by a local government or state-owned. However, federal regulations do not allow grants to be given to a religious entity or for properties used for religious purposes. Federally-owned properties are not eligible for the grant.

7. Do I have to show that the damage to be repaired was caused by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy?
Yes. The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will require that applicants provide documentation that the damage was storm-related such as dated photographs, an insurance claim and/or a contractor's estimate acquired within one month of the storm. Photographs showing the conditions before the storm are helpful, but not required.

8. What kind of work is allowable?

There are several types of work that can be done under the grant, including but not limited to:

- Construction work to repair damage.
- Preparation of plans and specifications, or a condition report.
- Survey and/or recordation of damaged properties.
- Stabilization of historic structures and archaeological properties.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will likely give preference to construction projects, but that will depend on the amount of funding available, the level of interest in the program and types of projects proposed.

9. Do construction projects have to be carried out following certain guidelines?

The work must be carried out in a manner that preserves the historical integrity of the property and is consistent with the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#). The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs must review the scope of work and may make site visits during the course of the project to ensure that the work is consistent with the secretary's standards.

10. Are there rules about how contractors are hired under these grants?

Yes. Federal procurement regulations apply.

11. Can local governments or state agencies receive a grant for a project if the Federal Emergency Management Agency is already providing assistance?

Possibly. You would need to demonstrate that the work for which you are seeking funding under this grant is not being paid for with another source of federal money.

12. Am I required to cover some of the costs of the repairs?

It is possible to receive a 100% grant. This will depend on the amount of the grant award which Delaware receives and how many applicants seek funding. Please note that the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will only consider projects for which the costs were, or are expected to exceed, \$5,000, but are no more than \$1 million.

13. I have already made some, or all, of the repairs to my historic property. Can I still be reimbursed?

Possibly. The project could be eligible to receive grant funds if:

- Repairs were made with private funds (not paid for by insurance) and these costs exceed \$5,000, and
- There is sufficient documentation to show what work was undertaken, and
- The completed work meets the secretary of the interior's standards, and
- Procurement was carried out in accordance with required regulations (see Question 10).

14. Will I receive payment in advance of the work being carried out?

No. Grant payments will be made at intervals during the course of the project as indicated in a grant agreement negotiated between the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs and the grant recipient. This agreement will also spell out other terms and conditions of the grant.

15. My building was almost completely destroyed by the storm. Could I use these funds to rebuild?
Probably not. The property still needs to retain enough integrity to be eligible for the National Register. Complete reconstructions are not eligible for funding.

16. Are there any other requirements associated with these grants?

The National Park Service also requires that a sign acknowledging the source of the funding be displayed at grant-project locations during the period of construction (cost for the sign can be covered by the grant). Grantees will also be required to protect the historical integrity of the property for a period of years after the project is completed by recording a deed restriction. The extent and duration of the restriction will depend on the amount of the grant.

17. I think my property would qualify for these funds. What do I do next?

Please send the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs a letter of interest, including the following information:

- The address of the property and historic name, if applicable.
- The name and address of the property owner.
- A description of the damage caused by the storm.
- The type of records that document the storm damage.
- The current status of the rehabilitation project.
- The estimated/final cost to repair the storm damage.
- Sufficient photographs to show the overall property and the storm damage.

Mail letters of interest to:

Letter of Interest—Hurricane Sandy Grants
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
21 The Green
Dover, DE 19901

Or email the letter to PreservationGrant@state.de.us.

NOTE: Submitting a letter of interest does not constitute a grant application, nor does it guarantee grant funding. The actual grant application process will take place in the fall of 2013 once Delaware has received its grant award.

18. What are the deadlines for this grant?

- Letters of interest must be received by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs no later than **June 14, 2013**. The division will use the information provided to support its application to the National Park Service.
- The deadline for Delaware to submit its grant application to the park service is June 30, 2013.
- A grant award from the park service is anticipated around August 31, 2013.
- Delaware will initiate a formal grant-application process based on its award within two weeks of receiving notification from the park service and will send application packets to those who submitted letters of interest. The application packet will contain further details on the program including grant selection-criteria and application deadlines.

19. More Questions? Please feel free to contact:

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