



America's 250th - Small Grants Program Fall 2024

The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) is pleased to announce a new round of small grants for non-profits and municipalities in preparation for the commemoration in 2026 of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. America 250 provides an exceptional opportunity to strengthen our connections with history as we explore the power of this unique place, one of the nation's first National Heritage Corridors, and its people through the ages.

Program Goals

TLGV is offering these grant funds to encourage partners to begin work on projects that will:

1. Enhance our collective commemoration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding.
2. Uncover new stories to complement, supplement or enhance existing research of our rich history and heritage.
3. Encourage previously uninvolved participants to join in celebrating our shared history.
4. Foster deeper connections between this place and people of all ages and backgrounds, and facilitate new collaborations among organizations.
5. Set in motion larger projects, programs or events that may have lasting impacts beyond 2026.

The Last Green Valley and its partners share a commitment to ensuring Americans of all backgrounds see themselves in our shared history. Through our research, education and programming we commit to deeply engaging with the entirety of our past, one that challenges and inspires us to become a more inclusive and vibrant democracy.

Grant Details

Grant proposals do not need to focus solely on people, places or events related to our nation's founding in 1776 or the events of the American Revolution. Rather, we encourage proposals that explore the full range of history in The Last Green Valley, including projects that document people, places and events today for the benefit of future generations.

Proposals may include a range of activities, including: research, interpretation, collections management, public education, community input forums/roundtables, coordination with a breadth of partners including arts/cultural organizations, event planning and programming. Proposals may not include collection acquisitions or construction costs. All projects must align with at least one of the five goals listed above and the major themes of TLGV's America250 Framework (thelastgreenvalley.org). Collaborative projects between organizations and/or municipalities are encouraged.

Grants will range from \$500 - \$2,000. Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis and must be matched 1:1 by cash or in-kind contributions. Projects that demonstrate the ability to generate higher match will be given greater consideration. All projects must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Eligible Organizations

Municipal boards, commissions or committees, state agencies, schools and non-profit 501(c) organizations are eligible to apply for projects related to significant people, places, events or issues within The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Application Instructions

Applications must be emailed, postmarked or hand-delivered by 4 pm on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Emails may be sent to Lois@tlgv.org. Mail or hand delivered applications should be delivered to The Last Green Valley, 203B Main St., Danielson CT 06239. TLGV will confirm receipt of your application within 2-3 business days. Successful applicants will be notified in February and will be required to complete all contract paperwork promptly.

The Fine Print

1. For all grants, payment of expenses will be made **on a reimbursement basis**.
2. A 1:1 match of cash or in-kind contributions (such as volunteer labor or donated supplies) must be demonstrated. Federal funds cannot be used as match.
3. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications will be evaluated by a selection committee.
4. TLGV reserves the right to fund projects at a level less than requested.
5. Projects cannot begin, and funds cannot be spent, until a contract has been fully executed.
6. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2025.
7. All final written/audio/digital products may be used by TLGV for any purpose without limitation and will be in the public domain. Applicants also retain separate ownership rights to project products.

Application Details - Please provide the following information:

- Project Title:
- Applicant Organization:
- Total Amount Requested from TLGV:
- Total Match Provided by Applicant:
- Project Mailing Address:
- Phone:
- E-mail:
- Website:
- Federal Employer Identification Number (required):
- Name and Signature of Project Director (electronic signature is acceptable):
- Date:

Narrative (no more than four pages). Please answer the following questions concisely.

1. Describe the project and its relationship to the America 250 commemoration.
2. How does the project align with the goals of this grant program and the major themes of TLGV's America 250 Framework?
3. Will there be long-term, lasting impacts?
4. Briefly describe the history, mission and accomplishments of the sponsoring organization(s).
5. Who are the personnel involved, paid or unpaid, and what are their qualifications and tasks?
6. What is the work schedule? Can the project be completed by December 31, 2025?
7. What is the overall budget for the project? How will the 1:1 match requirement be met?
8. What other funding sources have you explored for this project? Why are TLGV funds needed?
9. What are the plans for publicity, education and/or community outreach? How will you credit The Last Green Valley as a funder?
10. How will your organization evaluate the project?

Budget (one page). On a separate sheet of paper, please provide a detailed project budget.

A 1:1 match of cash or in-kind contributions such as volunteer labor or donated supplies must be made. Please specify the items and/or personnel you are asking TLGV to pay for as well as the items and/or personnel you are contributing as match. Please list the wage rates and dollar value of any donated labor. You may use the current Independent Sector rates for volunteer labor (\$36.44 for volunteers in CT and \$40.97 for volunteers in MA). Specialized, professional assistance may be valued at prevailing market rates for that field of expertise. Gifts of cash, goods and services from contributors other than the sponsoring organization should be listed separately. Federal funds cannot be used as match.

Attachments (as many pages as necessary).

For all applications – Up to two letters of support are strongly recommended.

For municipalities – A written document, signed by the chief elected or appointed municipal official, approving submission of the grant application and confirming the availability of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions.

For schools – A written document, signed by the principal or superintendent, confirming the availability of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions.

For non-profits – 1) Copy of the 501(c) letter from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service; and 2) written documentation of a Board of Directors' vote, signed by an officer of the Board, approving submission of the grant application and confirming the availability of matching funds and/or in-kind contributions.

For More Information

If you have any questions about the grant program or would like to discuss your proposal prior to submission, please contact Lois Bruinooge at 860-774-3300 or Lois@tlgv.org.