

## Eligibility Criteria

This funding opportunity is exclusively open to any Wyoming local governments and public education institutions, Wyoming based non-profit organizations, State agencies, and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils through their officially recognized designee(s).

## Requirements

- Applicants must demonstrate a history of successful project management or collaboration with community organizations.
- All applicant organizations that are 501(c)(3) nonprofits must be registered and compliant/in good standing with the Wyoming Secretary of State.
- A letter of support from the official county Semiquincentennial Committee or County Commission, or other official designation document must accompany the application.
- Partnerships with local schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, art and cultural organizations, civic and Veterans' groups, or Indigenous communities are encouraged but must be formalized in writing before submission.

## Deadline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through December 31, 2025. Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.

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## Qualifying Activities and Examples

Below are categories and examples of initiatives that align with this funding opportunity. These examples illustrate the diverse ways counties and local organizations can celebrate the 250th anniversary while engaging their communities. Other program suggestions are available in the community guidebook.

### 1. Strategic Planning for Semiquincentennial Initiatives

Funding supports activities aimed at developing comprehensive, community-informed plans.

#### Examples:

- **Example 1:** Green River's 250 Committee hosted bilingual listening sessions with local ranching and mining communities to ensure their stories were included in a commemorative calendar celebrating Wyoming's contribution to America's history.
- **Example 2:** The Wyoming Outdoor Council organized focus groups across Lander to develop an interpretive plan for showcasing conservation milestones in Wyoming's history as part of the Semiquincentennial celebrations.

- **Example 3:** Casper's Historic Preservation Alliance conducted a feasibility study to explore hosting a statewide event highlighting Revolutionary War connections and early settlement history.

**Examples of Eligible Expenses:**

- Professional facilitator fees.
  - Meeting materials, venue rentals, or virtual platform subscriptions.
  - Translation services for multilingual community outreach.
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## **2. Public Art and Murals with an America 250 Theme**

Public art projects should connect Wyoming's unique culture to state and national themes.

**Examples:**

- **Example 1:** Riverton unveiled a mural collaboratively created by local students and artists, depicting key historical figures and events that shaped both Wyoming's and America's heritage.
- **Example 2:** Jackson partnered with Indigenous artists to design a sculpture honoring Native leaders and their contributions to the region, linking their stories to broader national themes.
- **Example 3:** The Wyoming Arts Alliance worked with Cody artists to create a community art installation celebrating local ties to national independence and westward expansion.

**Requirements:**

- Projects must include educational elements, such as QR codes linking to online resources, public programs, or interpretive signage.
- Applicants must provide written permission from property owners for installations on private or public land.

**Examples of Eligible Expenses:**

- Artist fees and materials.
  - Public art talks or educational activities related to the artwork.
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## **3. Monuments and Markers**

Funding can support new markers or updates to existing ones that highlight underrepresented narratives in Wyoming's Revolutionary War and early settlement history.

### Examples:

- **Example 1:** Wheatland developed a trail of markers honoring the contributions of women and Indigenous communities in Wyoming's early history, distributing maps and guides at local visitor centers.
- **Example 2:** Laramie updated its 1950s-era historical markers to include QR codes offering interactive augmented reality experiences about early settlers and notable figures.
- **Example 3:** The Plains to Peaks Historical Society in Torrington created a new monument commemorating the role of local agricultural pioneers and their connection to early American ideals of self-reliance.

### Examples of Eligible Expenses:

- Design and printing costs of handouts.
  - Fabrication and installation costs of new monuments.
  - Fees for translating materials into multiple languages.
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## 4. Exhibits (Local and Online)

Temporary or permanent exhibits can showcase artifacts, photographs, or digital media celebrating Wyoming's unique history.

### Examples:

- **Example 1:** Rawlins Library curated a traveling exhibit exploring how Revolutionary ideals influenced the settlement of the American West, featuring oral histories from local ranching families.
- **Example 2:** Sheridan digitized rare photographs, letters, and diaries, creating an online repository for educators, researchers, and the public.
- **Example 3:** The Wyoming Women's Foundation collaborated with Cheyenne organizations to create an exhibit highlighting women's contributions to Wyoming's political and social history, tying their achievements to Revolutionary ideals.

### Examples of Eligible Expenses:

- Artifact conservation or display materials.
  - Costs for exhibit design, signage, printing, or interactive media.
  - Fees for technical services to digitize or create online resources.
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## Eligible and Ineligible Costs

### Eligible Costs

Funds may only be used for direct expenses associated with the project, including:

- **Salaries or stipends for project personnel:**  
\*Example: Hiring a local historian to research primary sources for an exhibit.
- **Event and program materials:**  
\*Example: Printing banners, brochures, or interpretive panels.  
\*Example: Renting audiovisual equipment for public events.

### Restrictions:

- Grant requests must be a minimum of \$2,500, and may not exceed \$25,000.
- Individual items exceeding \$5,000 require pre-approval from the state 250<sup>th</sup> Task Force
- Equipment purchased with funds must directly relate to the project and may be subject to state audits.
- A match is not required but is encouraged.

### Ineligible Costs

Projects unrelated to Semiquincentennial themes will not be funded.

Projects **may not** include:

- Partisan political events.
  - Alcohol, food, or entertainment expenses.
  - Capital improvements or facility upgrades unrelated to commemorative activities.
  - Fundraising efforts.
  - Lobbying.
  - Existing university faculty salaries.
  - **Fireworks**
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## Submission Guidelines

### Required Documentation

To ensure a complete submission, include the following:

1. **Letter** affirming the applicant's grant application has been approved and reviewed by the official county committee, or documentation of direct approval by the State Semiquincentennial Task Force.

2. **Project Narrative:** A detailed description (no more than three pages) of the proposed activity, objectives, and relevance to the Semiquincentennial theme.
    - Example: *“The proposed project involves installing a series of interpretive panels along the Green River trail to connect Wyoming’s geography with early migration patterns.”*
  3. **Budget and Timeline:** A detailed breakdown of expenses and income and a timeline of activities from start to finish.
  4. **Program Officials:** Provide the names, contact information, and qualifications for the program manager, fiscal manager, and authorizing officer.
  5. **Partnership Agreements:** Signed letters from partnering organizations or agencies.
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## Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

1. **Relevance to America 250 Themes (30%)**
    - Does the project honor and reflect Wyoming’s contribution to national heritage?
    - Does the proposal invite, engage, and plan alongside underserved communities such as Indigenous, immigrant, or other underrepresented communities?
  2. **Community Impact (25%)**
    - How many residents and visitors will benefit from this project?
    - Does it include meaningful engagement, such as public workshops or educational events?
  3. **Feasibility (20%)**
    - Are the objectives, timeline, and budget appropriate for the proposal?
    - Has the applicant successfully completed similar projects in the past?
  4. **Innovation and Creativity (15%)**
    - Does the project offer a unique perspective or use modern technology to engage audiences and provide access?
  5. **Sustainability and Longevity (10%)**
    - Will the project continue to serve the community beyond 2026?
    - Are there plans for ongoing maintenance or updates?
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## Application Timeline

- **Launch Date:** Applications open on January 15, 2025.
- **Deadline:** Applications close on December 31, 2025.

- **Notification of Awards:** Awardees will be notified within sixty days of application submission.
- Communities and organizations may apply for more than one grant

### **Disbursement Schedule**

All awardees will be required to sign a contract with the State of Wyoming, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. Funding will be distributed in two installments:

1. **90% upon approval** and execution of the grant agreement.
  2. **10% upon successful completion and submission of the final report.**
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### **Technical Assistance**

#### **Support Options**

Applicants are encouraged to schedule one-on-one consultations with program staff for assistance.

#### **Contact Information**

- **Nick Neylon**  
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