

## Eligibility Criteria

This funding opportunity is exclusively open to counties with an officially recognized county committee, and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils through their officially recognized tribal committees.. Only one committee per county is eligible to receive funding. Applicants must include proof of their official county committee designation with their submission. For additional information on forming county committees, please visit the Get Involved section of our website. Phase Two of this grant program will provide funding opportunities and communities and nonprofit organizations, and will be announced in January 2025.

### Key Points to Note

- Applicants must demonstrate a history of successful project management or collaboration with community organizations.
- A **county resolution** 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 June 30, 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 can celebrate the **250th anniversary** while engaging their communities. Other program suggestions are available in the community handbook.

### 1. Strategic Planning for Semiquincentennial Initiatives

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

- **Example 1:** Sweetwater County's 250 Committee held bilingual listening sessions with local ranching and mining communities to ensure representation in its commemorative calendar.
- **Example 2:** Natrona County commissioned a feasibility study for hosting a statewide Semiquincentennial event, analyzing potential venues, transportation logistics, and economic impact.

## 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 history to national themes.

- **Example 1:** Fremont County unveiled a mural by local students and artists portraying historical figures who influenced both Wyoming's and America's heritage.
- **Example 2:** Teton County partnered with Indigenous artists to create a sculpture representing historical figures and their relevance today.

## Important Considerations

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

## Ineligible Expenses

- Art unrelated to Semiquincentennial themes.
  - Permanent fixtures requiring extensive structural changes.
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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.

- **Example 1:** Platte County created a trail of markers honoring historical contributions from women and Indigenous communities, providing maps at local visitor centers.
  - **Example 2:** Albany County updated its 1950s markers to include QR codes linking to augmented reality experiences about historical figures.
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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.

- **Example 1:** Carbon County Library curated a traveling exhibit highlighting how Revolutionary ideals shaped the American West, incorporating oral histories from local families.
  - **Example 2:** Sheridan County Historical Society digitized rare photographs and diaries to create an online repository accessible to educators and researchers nationwide.
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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 may not exceed \$10,000.
- Individual items exceeding \$5,000 require pre-approval.
- Equipment purchased with funds must directly relate to the project and may be subject to state audits.

### Ineligible Costs

Projects may not include:

- Partisan political events.
  - Alcohol, food, or entertainment expenses.
  - Capital improvements or facility upgrades unrelated to commemorative activities.
  - Fireworks
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## Submission Guidelines

### Required Documentation

To ensure a complete submission, include the following:

1. **Official Resolution:** A county resolution affirming the applicant's committee status.

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 a timeline of activities from start to finish.
  4. **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 it include underrepresented voices, such as Indigenous, immigrant, or marginalized 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 realistic?
    - 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?
  5. **Sustainability and Longevity (10%)**
    - Can 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 December 15, 2024.
- **Deadline:** Applications close on June 30, 2025.
- **Notification of Awards:** Awardees will be notified within sixty days of application submission.

## Disbursement Schedule

Funding will be distributed in three 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:

- Attend an informational webinar.
- Schedule one-on-one consultations with program staff for assistance.

### **Contact Information**

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