2026 John J. Snyder Grant

The **John J. Snyder, Jr. Fund for Historic Preservation** supports the restoration, maintenance, and repair of historical structures in Lancaster and Cumberland counties. As described in Mr. Snyder's will, grant funds may be used for many of the "unglamorous things" necessary to sustain a documented historical structure owned by a community benefit organization, so that it may be preserved for future generations.

Project examples include repointing, roof repair and replacement, electrical system repair and replacement, general restoration, maintenance, and repair.

Grants range from **$20,000 – $117,000**.

Virtual Office Hours

Questions? Join the Programs Team for a Virtual Office Hours session.

March 18, 10:00 – 11:30 am → Register Here
April 16, 10:00 – 11:30 am → Register Here

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant organization must:

- Own the building for which it is applying. No exceptions.

- Serve Lancaster County or Cumberland County residents without discrimination.

- Have current 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.

- Be registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations unless otherwise exempt per the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act.

- Complete IRS Form 990 annually.

- Have an annual audit or a financial review by an independent CPA within the last 12 months.

- Be in good standing with all existing awards and contracts with the Lancaster County Community Foundation.

- Provide organizational Non-Discrimination Policy meeting all federal requirements as it applies to your type of organization (FAQs).

- Be aware of the Community Foundation's Anti-Hate Policy.

Please note the Community Foundation's competitive grants will not typically fund:

- Creation of a new organization
- Schools
- Political campaigns
- Expenses incurred before the grant is awarded
- Cemetery associations
- Religious causes that further a specific belief/agenda

Visit our website for additional information about eligibility: Eligibility Requirements

Application Process

1. Submit an Eligibility Screen (formerly Letter of Intent) on our online Grant Portal by **11:59 pm** on **Wednesday, May 6**. You will be asked to provide basic organizational information and a brief description of your proposed project.

2. Within three (3) business days, Community Foundation staff will review your Eligibility Screen. Once your eligibility has been confirmed, you will be given access to the grant application.

3. Submit your application by the final deadline, **11:59 pm** on **Wednesday, May 13**.

Feedback & Important Dates

If you want to receive feedback from Foundation staff on your application, please observe these deadlines:
- April 8 – Submit Eligibility Screen
- April 15 – Submit draft Application
- May 6 – Foundation staff will provide Application feedback
- May 13 – Submit Application

If you do not want to receive feedback (or miss the deadlines above):
- May 6 – Submit Eligibility Screen
- May 13 – Submit Application

Additional important dates:
- July 17 – Award notifications issued; Grant funding period begins
- July 17, 2026 – July 17, 2027 – Duration of grant funding period
- August 17, 2027 – Grant impact report due

Application Questions

- **Historical Significance**
  - Describe the historical significance of the structure. (1,500 characters)
  - How is the structure relevant to the mission of the organization, or how is the structure currently utilized? (1,000 characters)

- **Equity & Inclusion**
  - Describe your intentions to create and/or advance JEDI practices (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) at the organization or project level. If applicable, how does this project address specific issues identified in [Lancaster's Equity Profile](#) or ADA accessibility? (1,500 characters)

- **Nature of the Work**
  - Describe the nature of the restoration, maintenance, or repair for which you seek funding, including respect for the original materials used in its fabrication and plans to document the nature of the work. (1,500 characters)

- **Pre-Planning Process**
  - Describe how this project fits into a restoration/maintenance/repair plan for this building. Consider pre-treatment documentation (written and photographic records of the area or/and structure to be changed). Describe that planning process. (1,500 characters)
  - Provide details about the historic preservation consultant or vendor you have worked with. (1,000 characters)

- **Implementation Plan**
  - Describe how you will implement this project, including project timeline, key milestones, and who will be responsible for each phase. You may present this as a bulleted list or narrative. (1,500 characters)
  - Outline how grant funds will be used. (1,500 characters)

- **Ecological/Long-Term Benefits**
  - Describe any ecological benefits or long-term cost savings associated with this project. (1,500 characters)

Required Attachment(s)

All prospective applicants must provide at least **one (1) planning document** to demonstrate that they have thoughtfully adopted a strategy to repair, restore, and/or care for the historic structure. Please upload your organization's detailed plan which outlines the proposed repair, restoration, or maintenance work.

Evaluation Criteria

Community grant reviewers will use the following questions to evaluate and score applications:

- **Structure** – To what extent does the response demonstrate the historical significance and relevance of the structure?

- **Equity & Inclusion** – To what extent does the response demonstrate intentional practices of JEDI (JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) at the organizational or project level?

- **Nature of the Work** – To what extent does the response describe the nature of the work, steps to respect the original materials of the structure, and documentation of the work to be done for historical purposes?

- **Pre-Planning Process** - To what extent does the response outline a clear and well thought out pre-planning process, including collaboration with historic preservation consultant or vendor?

- **Implementation Plan** - To what extent does the response outline an effective plan for project implementation?

- **Ecological/Long-term Benefits** - To what extent does the response describe ecological benefits, or long-term cost savings associated with this project?

Community Foundation Staff Contact

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