



# Welcome!

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A program of Partners for Sacred Places  
in collaboration with the  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

# Agenda

1. National Fund Overview
1. Program Components
1. Application Process
1. Q&A



# National Fund Overview

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# Introduction



Funded through 2028 by



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A Private Philanthropic Foundation

**138 congregations served**

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**\$26+ million pledged or  
committed**



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# The National Fund Program



AT THE INTERSECTION  
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,  
& COMMUNITY

**Partners for Sacred Places**

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in collaboration with

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**National Trust *for***  
**Historic Preservation**

*Save the past. Enrich the future.™*

# National Fund Team

## Partners for Sacred Places

**Bob Jaeger**, President

**Gianfranco Grande**, Executive Vice President

**Rachel Hildebrandt**, Sr. Director of the National  
Fund for Sacred Places

**Lily Hamilton**, Associate Director

**Daniel Cruz**, Technical Assistance Coordinator

## National Trust for Historic Preservation

**Jennifer Sandy**, Senior Director of Preservation  
Programs

**Ann Phillips**, Senior Preservation Architect

**Tisha Allen**, Associate Director

**Dawn Ellis**, Associate Manager

**Diana Maxwell**, Senior Manager of Grants



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# Advisory Committee Members

**Barbara Abrajano**, Director of Development and Community Engagement, East-West University

**Alice Antonelli**, Director, Nonprofit Finance Fund

**The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows**, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

**Stephanie Boddie, PhD, MSW**, Assistant Professor of Church and Community Ministries, Baylor University

**The Rev. Dr. Christopher Coble**, Vice President for Religion, Religion Division, Lilly Endowment, Inc.

**Mark Constantine**, President and CEO, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation

**Marsh Davis**, President, Indiana Landmarks

**The Rev. Katie Day, PhD**, Charles A. Schieren Professor Emerita of Church and Society, United Lutheran Seminary

**The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Frank**, President, Heritage Conservation Carolina & Retired University Professor, Wake Forest University



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# Advisory Committee Members

**Christopher S. Hunter, PhD**, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Mississippi State University

**Catherine Lynch**, Development Specialist, Presbyterian Church (USA) Investment and Loan Program

**The Rev. Katherine Glaze Lyle**, Retired Clergy Member, North Texas Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church

**Ariana Makau**, President & Principal Conservator, Nzilani Glass Conservation

**Rev. Michael Mather**, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Boulder

**Jorge Rigau**, Architect, Arquitectos PSC

**Edward Torrez**, President, Arda

**The Rev. Robb R. Webb III**, Director of the Rural Church Program, The Duke Endowment

**Robin Whitehurst**, Principal, Bailey Edwards Architects and Board Chair, Partners for Sacred Places

**The Rev. Brian Williams**, Program Director, Religion Division, Lilly Endowment



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# Program Components

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# National Fund Program Components

National Fund grantees receive:

1. Training

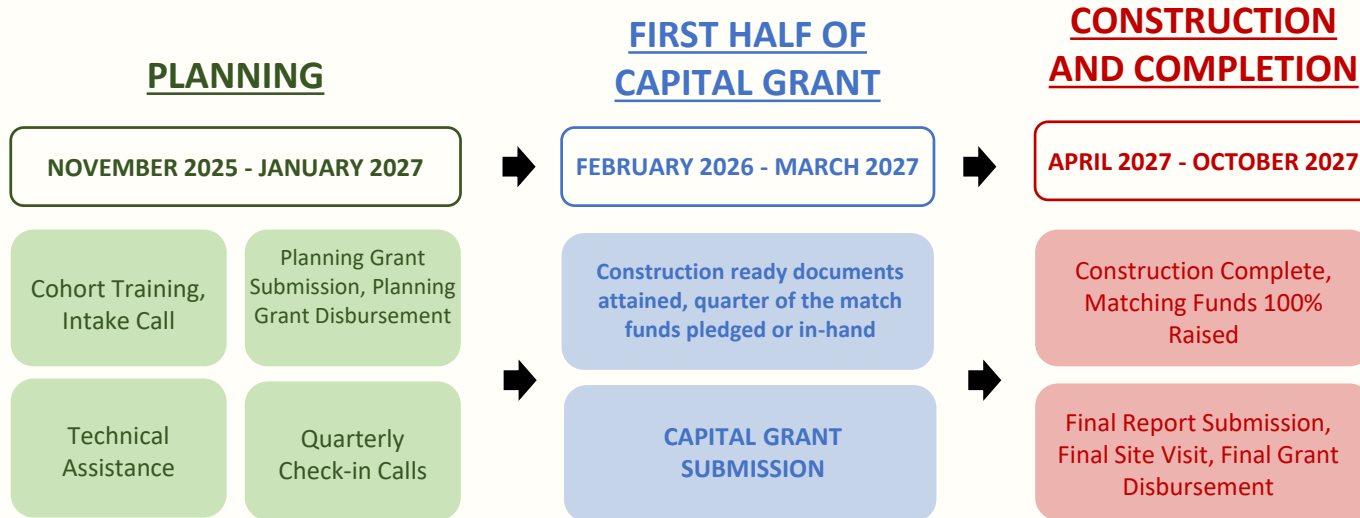
1. Technical Assistance

1. Planning Grant - Up to \$20,000 (no match required)

1. Capital Grant - \$50,000-\$500,000 (1:1 match required)

# Typical Program Timeline

**Target of 2 years**  
(November 2025 – October 2027)



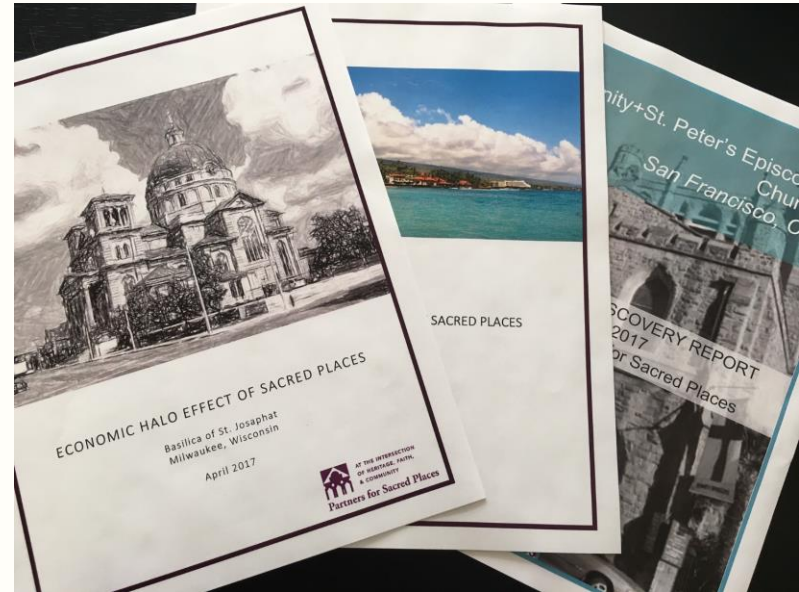
# Training

- Capital project planning
- Making your case for support
- Community-wide fundraising
- Friends groups and supporting organizations
- National Fund overview



# Technical Assistance

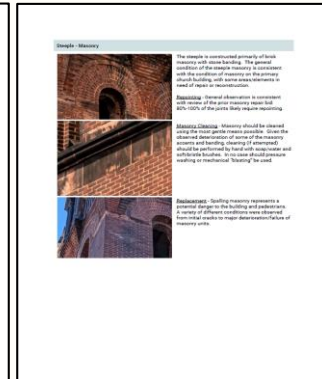
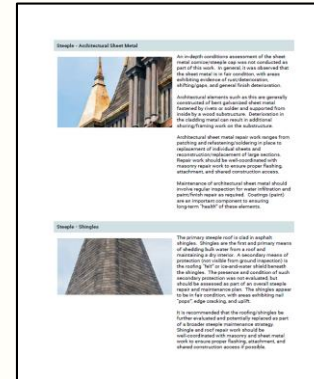
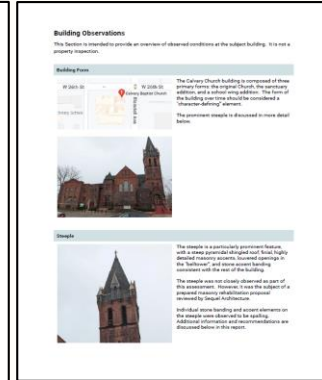
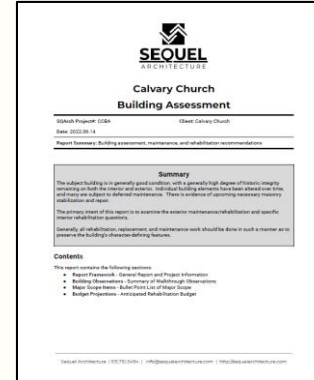
- Capital Campaign Support
- Communications Support
- *Economic Halo Effect Study*
- Community Engagement



# Planning Grant

## Up to \$20,000 for

- Conditions assessments or architectural design services
- Capital campaign consulting services
- Creation of marketing materials, including video



# Capital Grant

- We offer capital grants of \$50,000 - \$500,000
- All capital grants require a **1:1** match

*Example: A grant of \$250,000 requires a \$250,000 match while a grant of \$400,000 requires a \$400,000 match*

- Matching funds must be new money raised or applied for after program entry



# Eligible Matching Funds

- Congregational giving
- Cash or documented pledges from individuals, foundations, or corporations
- Proceeds from fundraising events (ticketed events, raffles, concerts, etc.)
- Government grants
- Proceeds from the sale of stock or real estate (gifted toward the match)
- Matured bequests (gifted toward the match)
- Donated materials and/or professional services (up to 20%) that directly support the grant-funded project



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# Ineligible Matching Funds

- Endowment or reserve funds (including interest)
- Bridge or construction loans
- Funds solicited, applied for, pledged, or secured prior to official acceptance into the program
- Other grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation or Partners for Sacred Places



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# Eligible Projects

The property must have **urgent repair needs** related to structural components, walls, roof, and/or other elements of the building envelope that are integral to building preservation and longevity. **Projects that improve functionality or improve accessibility** of the property in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are also eligible, as well as **renovation projects that make vacant or underused space usable for community outreach**, *but applicants should demonstrate that urgent repair needs to the building envelope have already been identified by a building condition assessment and addressed before proposing ADA or interior rehabilitation projects.*



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# Ineligible Projects

- Demolition of character-defining architectural features
- Purchase or lease of property
- New construction
- Landscaping or fencing
- Cemeteries
- Parking lots
- Religious art restoration (such as mural restoration)
- Pipe organ restoration or replacement
- Pew restoration or replacement
- Purchase of Audio-Visual equipment
- Security upgrades

Visit [fundforsacredplaces.org](https://fundforsacredplaces.org) for complete list of ineligible projects.



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# Capital Grant Submission

To receive the first half of grant funds, the following benchmarks must be met:

- **¼ of the match raised** and a plan for raising the rest of the match (in-hand or pledged)
- **Construction-ready drawings and specs** describing National Fund scope of work (including bid(s) selected)

The submission is completed in Foundant



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# Reporting Requirements

- An **interim report** is submitted once construction is 50% complete
- A **final report** is submitted once construction is 100% complete
- A **final site visit** is conducted

The second half of grant is disbursed **after** the final site visit.



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# Please Note!

Construction cannot begin on the National Fund Scope of Work until our team has approved your **capital grant submission.**



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# Building Conditions Assessment



## What is a Building Conditions Assessment?

A report commissioned from an architect, engineer, or other specialist that assesses a building's condition, identifies issues, and presents a list of prioritized recommendations

## What is its purpose - why do you need it?

- Critical “check-up” for historic buildings
- Assess building holistically
- Diagnose the origins of any pre-existing issues
- Explore repair and renovation options **before** the design phase

## Do you have a Building Conditions Assessment?



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# Building Conditions Assessment



## Seek out Experienced Professionals

- Always consider professionals experienced with historic properties - look at websites, portfolios, check references of contractors and architects, talk to past clients, etc.

## How to find Experienced Professionals?

- Reach out to your local preservation organizations, municipal preservation office, and/or your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for suggestions of experienced professionals.

## What is the deliverable/what should I expect?

- The format of the final product may vary
- Typically includes photographs of existing conditions, a thorough report describing existing conditions, prioritized list of recommended actions which should be used to inform your project's scope of work.



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# Building Conditions Assessment

## Steeple - Masonry



The steeple is constructed primarily of brick masonry with stone banding. The general condition of the steeple masonry is consistent with the condition of masonry on the primary church building, with some areas/elements in need of repair or reconstruction.

**Repointing** - General observation is consistent with review of the prior masonry repair bid. 80%-100% of the joints likely require repointing.



**Masonry Cleaning** - Masonry should be cleaned using the most gentle means possible. Given the observed deterioration of some of the masonry accents and banding, cleaning (if attempted) should be performed by hand with soap/water and soft-bristle brushes. In no case should pressure washing or mechanical "blasting" be used.



**Replacement** - Spalling masonry represents a potential danger to the building and pedestrians. A variety of different conditions were observed from initial cracks to major deterioration/failure of masonry units.

## Masonry - Foundation



The primary foundation walls on the original structure are a split-face stone laid in an "ashlar" pattern. In general, the masonry foundation walls are in fair to good condition. Isolated areas, however, are showing signs of settling and cracking. Particularly of note are individual spalling stones, visible cracks, and areas of deteriorated or inappropriate mortar.

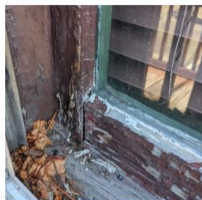
This photo is an example of a location where the repair mortar appears to be of a different composition than the original. The stone lintel and window opening are subject to differential settling and likely will need to be reset back to solid supporting material at some point in the future. Conditions like this should be monitored closely over time.

It is recommended that a detailed masonry plan and maintenance strategy be prepared. Masonry work can be "triaged" such that emergent issues are taken care of and a plan for regular maintenance put in place to address other non-emergent issues.

Refer to the Steeple Masonry section for additional information. The steeple repairs should be prioritized, along with foundation settling and reconstruction in order to ensure long-term stability. Additional "non-emergent" reporting, repairs, and maintenance can be monitored and addressed over time.



## Wood Windows - Rehabilitation and Restoration



Windows and window trim/moldings are typically considered a "character-defining feature" of historic buildings. Where original wood windows remain, they can often be restored to full working order.

Typical window restoration scope would include removal of the sashes, wood sash repair, repair of hardware/pulleys, reglazing, repainting, weatherstripping, jamb and sill repair, interior and exterior trim repair, and rehanging.

Wood trim/moldings at existing window and door openings are in varying stages of deterioration. Coordinated with other work, repair and/or replacement of these trim pieces should be addressed.

In many cases, deteriorated wood can be consolidated and repaired with wood-epoxy (such as "Abatron"). Where window elements are too far deteriorated, or require removal in order to address underlying repairs, this trim can be replicated and replaced with new wood elements to match the existing.

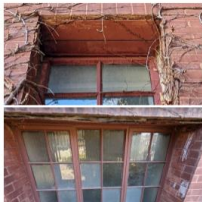
## Masonry - Cleaning



Lichen and moss growth were observed in some areas. This condition should be addressed as part of the overall masonry maintenance strategy.

All masonry cleaning should be performed in accordance with Historic Preservation Brief #1 using the gentlest method that achieves the desired result. So-called "blasting" methods should never be used.

## Masonry - Steel Lintels



Some of the masonry opening headers (in particular on the school wing addition) are supported by steel bearing lintels - angles and plates that support the masonry structure above. These elements are subject to deterioration and rusting due to exposure to moisture.

When masonry work (repointing) is performed, steel lintels should be evaluated for bearing and deterioration. Failing elements should be replaced.

Paint coatings should be well-maintained to increase the longevity of exposed steel lintels.

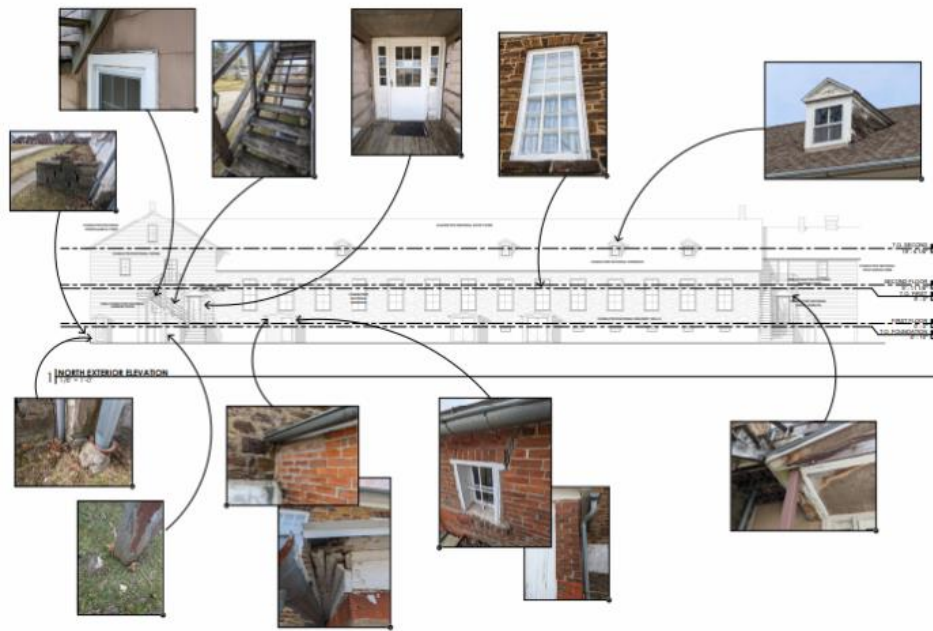
## Masonry - Inappropriate Mortar



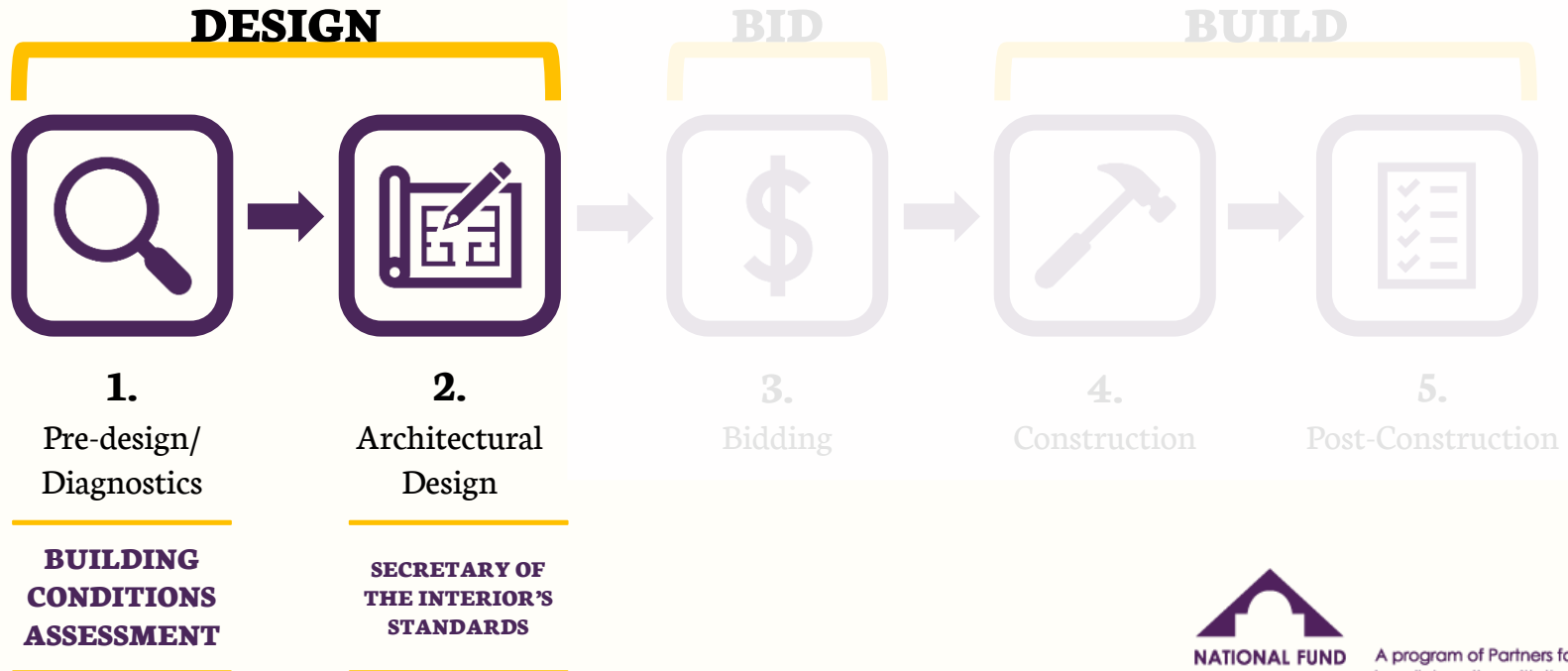
In general, the masonry walls are in fair to good condition, with isolated areas of inappropriate treatment (repointing) and deteriorated mortar joints.

The photos to the left illustrate a variety of conditions that should be addressed over time.

It is recommended that a detailed masonry plan and maintenance strategy be prepared. Masonry work can be "triaged" such that emergent issues



# How is a Capital Project Completed?



# Secretary of the Interior's Standards

## **PRESERVATION**

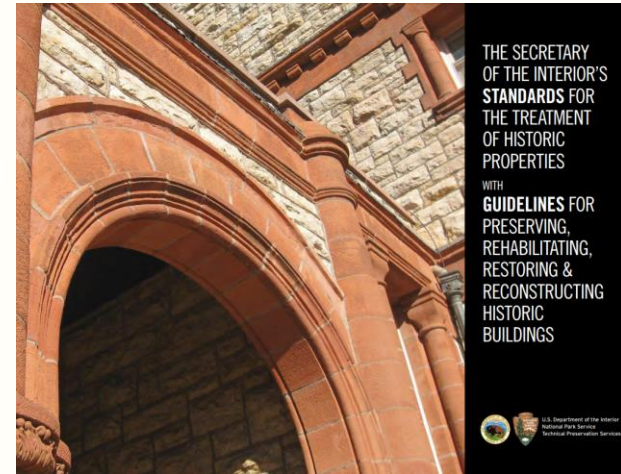
## **REHABILITATION**

## **RESTORATION**

## **RECONSTRUCTION**

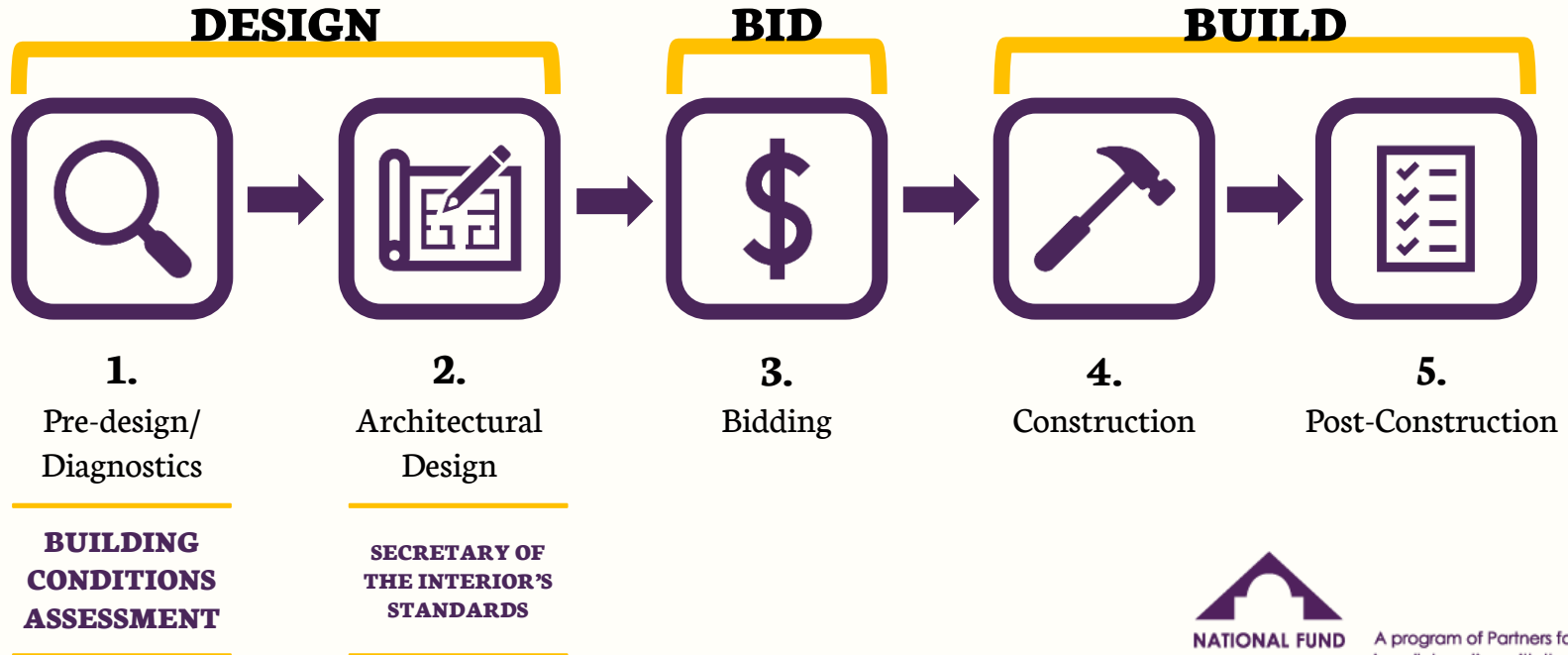
### **Standards for Rehabilitation**

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.
  2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
  3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
  4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
  5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
  6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
  7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
  8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
  9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
  10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential
- [www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/secretarys-standards-rehabilitation.htm](http://www.nps.gov/subjects/taxincentives/secretarys-standards-rehabilitation.htm)



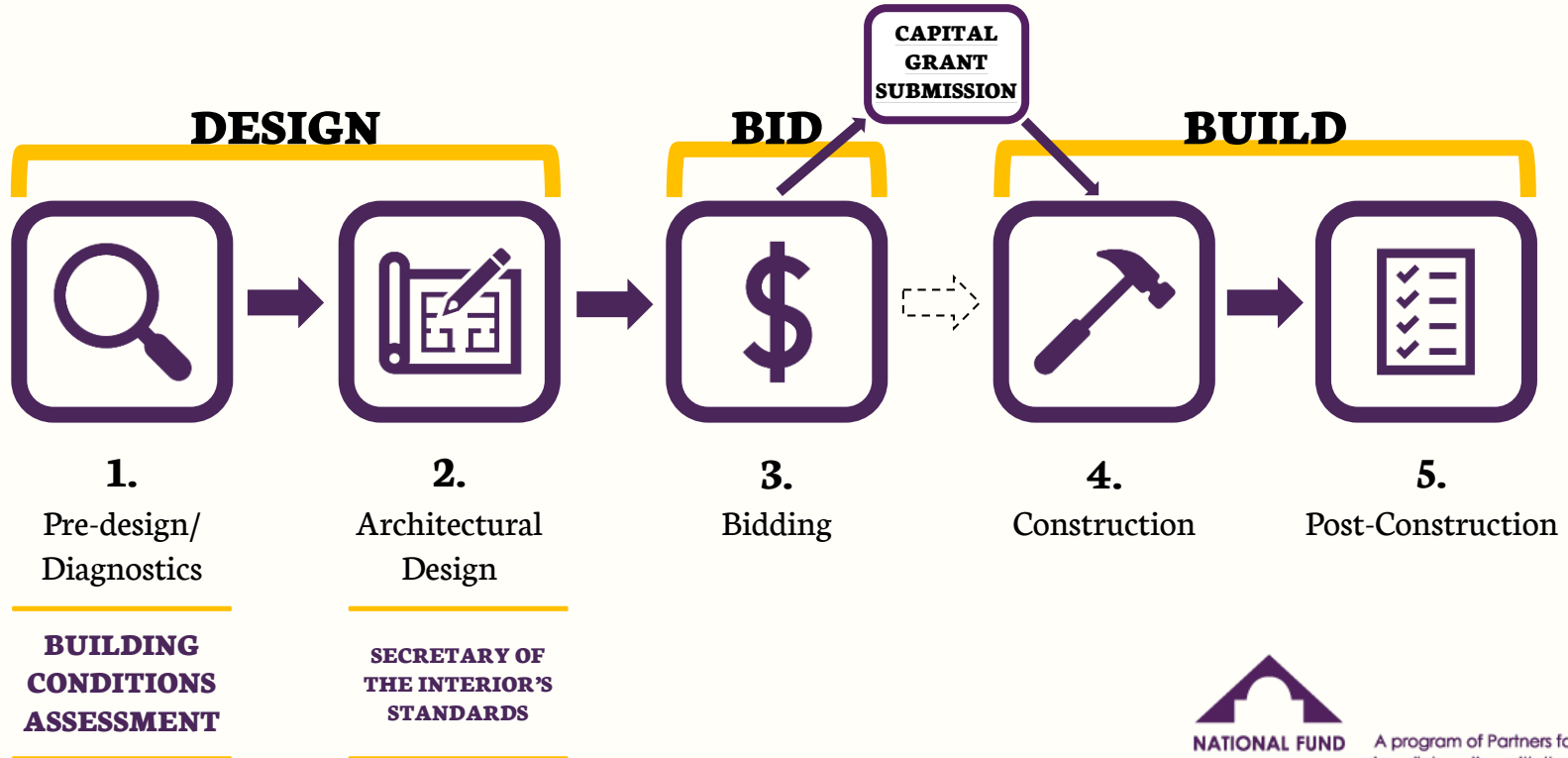
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# How is a Capital Project Completed?





# How is a Capital Project Completed?







# Application Process

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# Application Timeline 2025

## Application

**January 10**  
**Application Opens**

**March 3**  
**Application Due**

**June 19**  
**Notifications**

## Additional Information Form

**TBD**  
**Additional Information**  
**Form Opens**

**TBD**  
**Additional Information**  
**Form Due**

**Early October**  
**Final Notifications**

# Basic Eligibility

- Property must have been originally built as a house of worship
- Property must be owned and occupied by an active congregation (or held in trust by its denominational body)
- Applicant must be the congregation or closely affiliated nonprofit
- If applicant is a congregation, it must be at least 3 years old



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# Evaluation Criteria

- Historic, Cultural, or Architectural Significance
- Community-Serving Congregations
- Project Scope and Need
- Fundraising Readiness
- Healthy Congregations
- Strong Applications



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# Historic, Cultural, or Architectural Significance

Successful applicants are able to demonstrate their place in history by answering questions such as:

- How does your congregation's history relate to themes in American history and American religious history?
- Does the building tell a story of importance to marginalized or underrepresented groups?
- If your building was designed by a notable architect, how does it rank in the body of that architect's work? Is the building an exceptional example of its style?



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# Community-Serving Congregations

We're looking for congregations that:

- Operate and host programming that serves vulnerable and at-risk populations
- Share space with non-affiliated groups and organizations (often at subsidized rates)
- Partner with other congregations, faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and/or municipalities
- Have a widespread reputation for being a welcoming center of community life



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# Project Scope and Need

We fund projects that:

- Address urgent repair needs
- Improve functionality or improve accessibility
- Make vacant or underused space usable for community outreach

\*Applicants should demonstrate that urgent repair needs to the building envelope have already been identified by a building condition assessment and addressed before proposing ADA or interior rehabilitation projects.

\*All projects must adhere to the [\*Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation\*](#).

\*The National Fund scope of work is not finalized until the capital grant submission has been reviewed and approved by program staff. Sometimes, we fund what's proposed in the application. However, sometimes, we fund projects that have been identified as more urgent.



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# Fundraising Readiness

We're looking for congregations that:

- Have begun to lay the groundwork for a capital campaign or major fundraising effort
- Have established a realistic fundraising goal
- Are willing and able to raise matching funds within the two year program period
- Demonstrate a need for project funds that exceeds the congregation's typical donor base.

\*We encourage congregations undertaking capital projects larger than \$500,000 to work with a fundraising professional.



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# Healthy Congregations

The National Fund prioritizes healthy, stable congregations so that our investment is truly impactful and lasting. We look for the following, though this is not an exhaustive list:

- Tenured, well-respected clergy; capable lay leadership
- Stable or growing membership
- Financial strength and stability
- Positive and supportive relationship with regional denominational offices (if applicable)
- A history of weathering challenges with resilience



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# Strong Applications

The National Fund is a very competitive program, so we urge our applicants to put their best feet forward. Applications should:

- Be completed in full with all required attachments
- Make a compelling case for support
- Clearly articulate the project's goals and components
- Include high quality, high resolution photographs that help us to fully appreciate your building(s)



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# Accessing the Application

## Application Deadlines & Process

Applications for the National Fund for Sacred Places are accepted annually. Typically, 30-40 grantees that meet all of the eligibility requirements and exemplify the program criteria are accepted into the National Fund program in October. All application submission steps take place through our online grants management system, [Foundant](#).

### Application Launch January 10, 2025

Applications through the Foundant grant system will be accepted from any eligible congregation.

### Applications Due March 3, 2025

Applications must be submitted in the Foundant grant system by 11:59 pm EST on March 3, 2025

### Final Notifications October 2025

Final decisions will be made with the [Advisory Committee](#), and grantees will be notified in October.

[APPLY NOW!](#)

[REGISTER FOR THE FEBRUARY 6,  
2025 APPLICATION INFORMATION  
WEBINAR](#)

[VIEW SLIDES FROM 2024 WEBINAR  
WITH TIPS FOR APPLICANTS](#)

[fundforsacredplaces.org](https://fundforsacredplaces.org)

# Accessing the Application



**NATIONAL FUND**  
FOR  
**SACRED PLACES**

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Logon

Email Address\*

Password\*

**Log On**

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the National Fund for Sacred Places on-line portal.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

Not Sure? If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, do not create a new account. Please contact to receive your username and password.

# Accessing the Application

## Partners for Sacred Places

🔍 Search or enter Access Code

If you have been provided with an Access Code for a later program step, you may enter it in the box at the top of the page. No Access Code is needed to complete an LOI or general Application.

### National Fund for Sacred Places 2025

**The National Fund for Sacred Places** (the National Fund) is a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Fund program provides more than financial support. The program is designed to help congregations successfully navigate the capital project process through training, technical assistance, planning support, and matching capital grants.

[See More](#)



📅 Closes  
03/03/2025

🖨️ Preview

Apply





# Add Collaborators

  APPLY


## Application


Process: National Fund for Sacred Places 2025


[Contact Info](#) [Request](#) [Documents](#) 0

<b>Applicant:</b> Congregation Name lilychamilton@gmail.com		<b>Organization:</b> Partners for Sacred Places 12-3456789 215-567-3234 1700 Sanson Street #10 Philadelphia, PA 19103	
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[Contact Email History](#)

[Question List](#) 

 Due by 03/03/2025 11:59 PM EST.

 Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required.



Introduction

## National Fund for Sacred Places

The National Fund for Sacred Places (the National Fund) is a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Fund program provides more than financial support. The program is designed to help congregations successfully navigate the capital project process through training, technical assistance, planning support, and matching capital grants.

**Collaborate** 0


# Download PDF of Application

  APPLY




## Application Collaborate 0


Process: National Fund for Sacred Places 2025


Contact Info Request Documents 0

<b>Applicant:</b> Congregation Name lilychamilton@gmail.com	 <b>Organization:</b> Partners for Sacred Places 12-3456789 215-567-3234 1700 Sanson Street #10 Philadelphia, PA 19103
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[Contact Email History](#)

 Application  Question List 

 Due by 03/03/2025 11:59 PM EST.

 Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required.

Introduction

### National Fund for Sacred Places

The National Fund for Sacred Places (the National Fund) is a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Fund program provides more than financial support. The program is designed to help congregations successfully navigate the capital project process through training, technical assistance, planning support, and matching capital grants.

# How to Submit the Application

Application Question List


**Due by 03/03/2025 11:59 PM EST.**

**Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required.**

- > Introduction
- > Applicant Information
- > Congregation Information
- > Case for Support
- > Historic, Cultural, or Architectural Significance
- > Community-Serving Congregations
- > Project Scope and Need
- > Fundraising Readiness
- > Healthy Congregations
- > Photos
- > Certification

**Due by 03/03/2025 11:59 PM EST.**

[Abandon Request](#) [Save Application](#) [Submit Application](#)







# Q&A

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# Contact Information

## **Partners for Sacred Places**

Lily Hamilton, Associate Director  
lhamilton@sacredplaces.org  
(215) 567-3234, x14

## **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

fundforsacredplaces@savingplaces.org

# Application due March 3rd, 11:59 PM EST

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