



Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania (HBFF)

Barn Preservation Grant

Grant Year 2026

Summary of Program: Pennsylvania's barns represent the strong agrarian history that characterizes the Commonwealth's past and continues to influence its future. These iconic symbols of our rich agricultural heritage are also some of the most threatened due to demolition and neglect. The intent of this grant by the [Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania](#) (HBFF) is to assist barn owners in the retention and preservation of this rich agrarian building heritage. Whether a barn needs a great amount of work, such as a new roof or foundation, or simply needs minor repair work, such as painting or roof patching, the intent of this grant program is to assist in preserving historic* barns of various types, sizes, and conditions throughout the Commonwealth.

*Historic refers to barns which are at least 50 years of age or older.

Grants are awarded based on eligibility and the criteria specified herein. All grant requests require a 50/50 CASH match by the applicant. The grant is awarded when the project is satisfactorily completed. Please note, if the grant recipient takes any action within ten years to demolish or intentionally remove the barn, the barn preservation grant shall be repaid to HBFF in full within one year. Actions that are the result of a natural disaster would be an exception to this policy.

Please include the following*:

1. Completed application and all supporting materials, including photographs and estimates for cost of project (see grant application for details and requirements). Submission of the application by email to hbffbarngiant@gmail.com is preferred. Please note if hard copies are submitted, a digital copy saved to a thumb drive or disk must also be included.
2. Applying for grants is free to members of the HBFF. Non-members may become members by filling out the application on the HBFF website and sending member dues to:
Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of PA Attn: Miles Ribbans, 1848 Nolt Road, Mount Joy PA 17552

*Please note, nothing will be returned to you. You will receive confirmation that the application has been received on the date of receipt.

For questions regarding the grant and/or grant application process, please contact:

Christopher Macneal
Chair, HBFF Barn Preservation Grant Committee
7053 Brush Valley Road, Rebersburg PA 16872
hbffbarngiant@gmail.com



Barn Preservation Grant Guidelines

1. Eligibility

Barn Owner

- a. Current Pennsylvania resident.
- b. Current HBFF member (if not, join or renew here: pahistoricbarns.org/membership/)
- c. HBFF Board members and Grant Fund Committee Members are not eligible for barn preservation grant awards.

Barn Eligibility

- a. Located in Pennsylvania.
- b. Originally constructed for the shelter of livestock and/or storage of farm equipment or agricultural products.
- c. Must be over 50 years of age.
- d. Must retain a significant degree of historic character and material.
- e. Preference will be given to barns that are visible from a public right-of-way.

2. Eligible Projects

- a. Repair projects including in-kind or sensitive replacements of roofs, walls, siding, flooring, windows, and doors as well as painting.
- b. Projects that serve to protect the barn from deterioration by preventing water infiltration (i.e. roof repair, gutters and downspouts, re-grading, foundation repair, etc.).
- c. Stabilization activities including but not limited to repairs or replacements of foundations, sills, walls, and structural framework.
- d. All grant-funded work must comply with the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Historic materials, features, and finishes should be retained, repaired, or replaced in kind to the fullest extent possible; however, exceptions may be allowed on a case-by-case basis as determined the Grant Committee.
- e. If awarded, all work must begin within one (1) year and be completed within two (2) years.
- f. Barn owners may only submit one application for one project per year, even if multiple barns are owned that would otherwise be eligible for the funding.

Ineligible projects include but are not necessarily limited to planning costs, such as conditions assessments, structural investigations, and the preparation of architectural drawings. New construction, either interior or exterior, is not considered eligible for grant funding even if the work is historically compatible. Grant funds are not available without a PA registered contractor.



3. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the Grant Committee in determining the grant awards:

- a. Completeness and thoroughness of the application.
- b. The expected benefit to the continued use and preservation of the barn.
- c. The age and type of the barn – does it represent a unique type, period, or method of construction?
- d. Readiness of the applicant to initiate and complete the project within the time frames specified.
- e. The value of work completed relative to the funds expended.
- f. Visibility of the barn to the public right-of-way.
- g. Extent to which the project contributes to the equitable geographic distribution of HBFF barn preservation grants across the Commonwealth.
- h. Projects may be rejected for failure to adhere to the Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. More information about these standards can be found [here](#)

4. Application Assistance

Christopher Macneal
Chair, HBFF Barn Preservation Grant Committee
7053 Brush Valley Road, Rebersburg PA 16872
hbffbarngant@gmail.com

5. Application Process and Timeline

Completed digital applications (and HBFF membership fee if nonmember) must be received by HBFF by November 1, 2025. After the deadline has passed, the HBFF Barn Preservation Grant Review Committee will convene to review the applications based on the evaluation criteria stated in the program's guidelines. A visit to the barn by one or more of the Committee may be made as part of the review process. If a visit is deemed necessary, the applicant will be notified in advance to coordinate the visit. The Barn Preservation Grant Review Committee will make a recommendation to the HBFF Board of Directors for either full approval, partial approval, or denial of the grant fund request.

Once the HBFF Board of Directors approves a grant award, the successful applicant will receive formal notification regarding the award. Applicants will be notified by email no later than March 15, 2026.

The HBFF Board of Directors reserves the right not to award any grants or to award more than one grant within any given year.

The number of grants awarded will be contingent upon the amount of grant money available to HBFF as well as the number of successful applications received which meet the guidelines specified.



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Grant funds will be distributed to successful applicants in the form of a check when the ENTIRE project specified in the grant application is completed. Confirmation of completion will include photographic documentation of the completed project and proof of payment. HBFF reserves the right to a site visit.

6. Obligations of Grant Recipients

- a. The grant applicant's signature on the grant application indicates acceptance of the terms of the grant program and will constitute a grant contract if a grant is awarded.
- b. The successful grant applicant is required to match the amount of the HBFF grant in cash for the project described in the application.
- c. Grant funds can only be applied to project-related cash expenditures and cannot be used to pay for expenditures made prior to the grant contract period.
- d. Grant funds are paid on a reimbursement basis once work is completed and all elements of the project scope described in the application are completed.
- e. HBFF representatives may visit the work site to inspect the work while it is being carried out; this would be coordinated in advance with the barn owner.
- f. If the grant recipient decides to take any action within ten years to demolish, remove, or sell the barn out of their ownership, the barn preservation grant will be repaid to the HBFF within one full year. Actions that are the result of a natural disaster would be the exception to this policy.
- g. HBFF must be acknowledged in any materials that are prepared publicizing the funded project.
- h. HBFF makes no representation about the potential tax implications of receiving grant funds. It is suggested that applicants review any potential tax implications with their advisor.
- i. Confirmation of completion will include photographic documentation of the completed project and proof of payment. Please note, HBFF reserves the right to a site visit. Photos taken during a site visit shall be the sole property of HBFF and may be used by HBFF in any manner and for any purpose.