The African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program funds the preservation of the sites and stories associated with the African American struggle for equal rights. Building upon the success of the AACR program, the FY 2020 and FY 2021 appropriations bill created a new competitive grant program to protect the sites important in securing civil rights for all Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans. The National Park Service has renamed the Civil Rights for All Americans Grant Program to the “History of Civil Rights (HER) Grant Program.”

Background
Between FY 2016 and FY 2019, Congress appropriated $48.5 million to the AACR Grant Program, supporting 185

**FY 2022 Appropriations Request**

Please support $19 million for African American Civil Rights Grants and $7 million for Civil Rights for All Americans Grants in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African American Civil Rights Grants</th>
<th>Civil Rights for All Americans Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPROPRIATIONS BILL:</strong> Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
<td><strong>APPROPRIATIONS BILL:</strong> Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGENCY:</strong> National Park Service</td>
<td><strong>AGENCY:</strong> National Park Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACCOUNT:</strong> Historic Preservation Fund</td>
<td><strong>ACCOUNT:</strong> Historic Preservation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIVITY:</strong> Competitive grants to document, interpret, and preserve historical sites associated with the African American Civil Rights Movement</td>
<td><strong>ACTIVITY:</strong> Civil rights grant program that would preserve and highlight the sites and stories associated with securing civil rights for All Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recent Funding History:**

| FY 2019 Enacted Funding: | $14.50 million |
| FY 2020 Enacted Funding: | $15.50 million |
| FY 2021 Enacted Funding: | $16.75 million |
| FY 2022 President’s Budget Request: | TBD |
| **FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation:** | **FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation:** |
| $19.000 million | $7.000 million |

**JUSTIFICATION:** Increased funding for the expanded African American Civil Rights Grant Program would better protect and interpret important places associated with the African American struggle for equal rights while creating well-paying, preservation-related jobs and investment in local communities. Increased funding for the Civil Rights for All American Grants will promote a more inclusive narrative for the work to achieve the civil rights for all Americans through identification and protection of noteworthy places of our shared history.
Civil Rights Grant Programs: Highlighted Projects

**Greenwood Center Buildings in Historic “Black Wall Street,” Oklahoma (Bricks and Mortar)**  
**FY 2019 $500,000**  
The Greenwood Community Development Corporation will use this grant to add new roofs and make other important repairs and improvements to 10 buildings comprising the Greenwood Centre. This block is all that remains of Black Wall Street, at one time the greatest thriving Black business community in the United States that was destroyed during the 1921 Tulsa race massacre.

**Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Alabama (Bricks and Mortar)**  
**FY 2018 $500,000; FY 2017 $300,000; FY 2016 $500,000**  
The Brown Chapel AME Church was the starting point for the Selma-to-Montgomery march on March 7, 1965, led by Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the late Representative John Lewis of the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee. The marchers were brutally attacked by mounted troopers on Edmund Pettus Bridge and the day became known as “Bloody Sunday.” The events of this day led to a symbolic march on the bridge led by Martin Luther King, Jr. and the passage of the Voting Rights Act. These NPS grants helped the iconic church install a new roof and electrical wiring, complete structural repairs, and restore of elements of the building’s interior.

**Tallahahatchie County Courthouse, Mississippi (Bricks and Mortar)**  
**FY 2016 $500,000**  
In August 1955 Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American, was lynched by White men after being falsely accused of offending a White woman. Through his mother Mamie Till’s activism, Emmett Till’s tragic murder brought nationwide attention to the prevalent racial violence and systemic injustice in the United States. The Emmett Till Memorial Commission of Tallahatchie, Inc. used this grant to restore the still-working courthouse where Till’s murderers, who later confessed, were acquitted by an all-White, all-male jury in September 1955.

**Summit Street Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), Ohio (Bricks and Mortar)**  
**FY 2019 $500,000**  
Since the founding of YWCA Dayton in 1870, the organization has been on the forefront of promoting social movements from voting and civil rights to affordable housing and racial justice. In 1889, the YWCA Dayton was the first YWCA to open a branch for African American women and girls. One of the original buildings for African American women, the “West Side Y,” was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2019. Dayton nonprofit Early Visions will revitalize the historic property and repurpose it as the Early Visions Purpose Center, dedicated to sharing women’s history, especially the history of African American women in West Dayton, while providing responsive programs to advance the skills of resident girls and young women.

**Historic Hamtramck Stadium, Michigan (Bricks and Mortar)**  
**FY 2019 $490,729**  
Hamtramck Stadium, one of the five remaining Negro League ballparks, was home to the Detroit Stars and the Detroit Wolves and hosted many great league players such as Satchel Paige, Ty Cobb, Josh Gibson, and Turkey Stearnes. This grant will be used to rehabilitate the grandstands of this National Register property.

**Rosenwald Schools, Various (Survey, Mapping)**  
**FY 2016 $50,000**  
The National Trust for Historic Preservation received a grant to inventory and map extant Rosenwald Schools by consolidating existing statewide surveys into one data set. This project created a baseline for understanding the number and location of the schools that still remain, and helped educate those who seek to support their future preservation.

**The African-American Civil Rights and Women’s Suffrage Experience in NY, New York (Survey)**  
**FY 2018 $50,000**  
The City of Mount Vernon received a grant that will help them identify, evaluate, and nominate historic sites, events, locations, and people that tell the stories of women’s struggle for suffrage and African Americans’ struggles for civil rights in the area.

**Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church, Oregon (Bricks and Mortar)**  
**FY 2018 $350,000**  
Funding from the NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Fund for Sacred Spaces program will allow the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church congregation to restore the church and renovate community spaces, install energy-efficient equipment, and improve accessibility. The church played a leading role in the region during the Civil Rights Movement and is one of the last remaining landmarks of the black community that once thrived in that area.

For additional information, contact Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations and Policy, SSprague@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6339 or Tom Cassidy, Senior Advisor, TCassidy@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6078.