The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program provides competitive grants to revive historic properties in rural communities across America. Based upon the highly successful Vermont Village Revitalization Initiative, Congress created the new grant program in FY 2018 with an initial appropriation of $5 million. The program, formerly known as the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, was renamed in honor of Paul Bruhn, the late executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

**Background**

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants are designed to foster economic development while preserving the history of rural communities by awarding grants to rehabilitate historic properties of significance in areas defined as rural by the U.S. Census (population less than 50,000). Under the program, eligible grantees receive funds that are then sub-granted to organizations for preservation projects at National Register Historic Sites. All of the awarded projects are bricks and mortar, job-creating projects.

**FY 2022 Appropriations Request**

Please support $9 million for the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGENCY: National Park Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTIVITY: Historic Revitalization Grants</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recent Funding History:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019 Enacted Funding:</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5.0 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2020 Enacted Funding:</td>
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<td>$7.5 million</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$7.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022 President’s Budget Request:</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation:</td>
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<td>$9.0 million</td>
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**JUSTIFICATION:** Historic revitalization grants invest in preserving the unique cultures of the nation’s rural communities, fostering economic development and creating jobs.
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program

In its first two years of funding, the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program provided $10 million in grants to 17 organizations that support the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities across the United States.

ALASKA
Historic Rehabilitation of National Register Properties in Sitka
FY 2018 $238,033

IOWA
Iowa’s Rural Heritage Revitalization Program
FY 2019 $600,000

KANSAS
Kansas Rural Preservation Grants
FY 2019 $500,000

LOUISIANA
Rehabilitation of Commercial Structures in Louisiana’s Main Street District
FY 2018 $662,000

MAINE
REvitalizeME
FY 2018 $750,000

MONTANA
Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage
FY 2018 $391,067

NEW YORK
Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program
FY 2019 $750,000

NORTH CAROLINA
Downtown Salisbury Historic Revitalization Incentive Grants
FY 2019 $543,185

OREGON
Oregon Historic Theaters Subgrant Program
FY 2018 $665,000

RHODE ISLAND
Chepachet Village Historic District Subgrant Program
FY 2018 $250,000

VERMONT
Historic Restoration Subgrant Program of Vermont
FY 2018 $747,000
Bruhn Village Revitalization Grant Program of Vermont
FY 2019 $745,000

WASHINGTON
The Third Places Matter Fund
FY 2019 $750,000

WEST VIRGINIA
West Virginia Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
FY 2018 $350,000

WYOMING
State of Wyoming Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program
FY 2019 $355,488

NATIONWIDE
Main Street Façade Improvement Grant Program
FY 2018 $746,900

The National Main Street Center is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

One of the inaugural recipients of the Paul Bruhn program, the Maine Development Corporation, in partnership with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, awarded six subgrants through the REvitalizeME Grant Program. Two of these grants supported implementation projects at the Peavey Memorial Library and Johnson Hall.

TOP: Built in 1864, Johnson Hall is the oldest opera house in Maine that is still used as a theater. Located in Gardiner, one of Maine’s nationally designated Main Street Communities, Johnson Hall has been devastated by fires on three occasions and by flooding twice. The project received $243,752 for Phase One, which includes exterior masonry repairs and window restoration to prevent the building from further deterioration. The project will also take advantage of the historic tax credit. When the work funded through the grant is completed, 60% of the exterior façade work will be complete.

Bottom: Peavey Memorial Library in Eastport, Maine, was built in 1893 and has been in continuous use as a library for 127 years. The library serves Washington County, which has one of the highest poverty rates in the state, and is a critical resource for the entire region. At the time of application, the building’s façade was in critical condition: the main entrance and archway had been closed to the public for safety and was being supported by scaffolding. The $248,266 grant will help the library repair the masonry, roof, and gutters surrounding the entry arch and restore the cupola. The project is well underway and is expected to be completed in 2021.

PHOTOS COURTESY MAINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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.