

America 250 Grant Application

Hernando County Public Library System

Project Title: America 250 Grant

Grant Number: 26.a.am.000.069

Request Amount: \$10,000.00

a. Organization Name: [Hernando County Public Library System](#)

b. FEID: F591155275005

c. Phone number (with extension if applicable):
352.754.4043

d. Principal Address: 238 Howell Avenue Brooksville
Florida, 34601

e. Mailing Address: 238 Howell Avenue Brooksville
Florida, 34601

f. Website: www.HernandoCountyLibrary.us

g. Organization Type: County Government

h. Organization Category: Library

i. County: Hernando

j. UEI number: MWKBKNTZ9SW7

k. Fiscal Year End Date: 09/30

1. Project Title*:

America 250 Grant

2. Project Contact*

Select contact: Loftis-Culp,Cindy - CLoftis-Culp@hernandocounty.us - 352.540.6989

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Loftis-C

Phone: 352.540 Extension:

Email: CLoftis-Culp@he

3. Project Description*:

Please provide an overview of the project that explains how your project will promote and encourage, among other things:

- Civic, cultural, and historic education facilitating public understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the origin and meaning of inalienable rights, American's triumph in the Revolutionary War, the meaning of "E Pluribus Unum," and America's "Charters of Freedom;"
- Awareness of the necessity and virtue in preserving self-government; or
- Honoring of veterans of all generations who have served and sacrificed to preserve freedom in America and around the world.

The Hernando County Public Library System proposes "*Voices of Liberty: Civic Literacy and Living History at the Library*", a year-long, all-ages initiative that promotes civic education, cultural engagement, and historical understanding. Through strategic partnerships—including the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and local veterans' groups—the project will offer inclusive programming that reinforces the values of freedom and equality in honor of individuals who have fought to preserve them.

Key fall programs will include *Founding Principles Family Night*, an interactive experience with stations on the Declaration of Independence, "E Pluribus Unum," and American symbols, and a *Veterans Day Tribute* featuring storytelling and recognition events. In winter, *Civics Through Storytime* will introduce core civic ideas to children and families, supported by a curated *Let Freedom Read!* Winter Reading Challenge and an interactive *American Symbols* exhibit.

In spring 2026, the Library will present a *Charters of Freedom* mini-series exploring America's founding documents, leading into a *Living History Day* with reenactors and student dramatizations. The program will culminate in a community art project, *Freedom Is...*, where patrons of all ages reflect on what freedom means through visual and written expression.

Together, these programs will foster public understanding of the principles of liberty and self-government, cultivate civic pride, and honor those who have protected our freedoms.

4. **Project TimeLine:**

What is the project's timeline, including key dates or benchmarks.

Fall 2025 (October–December)

- **"Founding Principles Family Night"**
Interactive, all-ages evening event with hands-on stations on the Declaration of Independence, "E Pluribus Unum," and early American symbols. May include a scavenger hunt, trivia contest, and DAR-led mini-presentations.
- **"Freedom's Women: Heroines of the Revolution"**
Partner with DAR to present on the roles women played in the Revolutionary War—great for all ages and ties in well with civic and historical education.
- **Veterans Day Tribute (November)**
Host an intergenerational program that honors local veterans with storytelling, student essays or artwork on "What Freedom Means to Me," and a display of veterans' photos and memorabilia.

Winter 2025–2026 (January–February)

- **"Civics Through Storytime"**
A short series of themed storytimes for children and families focusing on themes like freedom, unity, and community (books like *We the Kids*, *I Pledge Allegiance*, *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution*).
- **"American Symbols: Interactive Exhibit"** Create a small, kid-friendly walk-through exhibit in the library featuring the Liberty Bell, bald eagle, flag, Great Seal, etc. Include activity sheets for school-age kids.
- **"Let Freedom Read!" Winter Reading Challenge**
Encourage all ages to read books that explore U.S. history, civic themes, and American heroes. Include a curated booklist for adults, teens, and children.

Spring 2026 (March–June)

- **"Voices of Freedom: Living History Day"**
Invite reenactors, DAR speakers, or local school drama groups to present short skits or first-person portrayals of historical figures. This can be a capstone event for the project.
- **"Charters of Freedom: A Civic Literacy Pop-Up Series"**
Mini workshops that highlight the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. Make them accessible for adults, teens, and homeschool groups.
- **"Freedom Is... Community Art Installation"**
Invite patrons of all ages to contribute to a public art piece reflecting on what freedom means to

them. Display in the library during the final month of the grant period.

5. **Project Impact:**

How does the proposed project create public engagement and/or community engagement around Florida's America250 celebrations? Things to consider: estimated project participation numbers; for education products, how will they be distributed and in what amounts; economic impact on the surrounding community; and educational or other public benefit.

Voices of Liberty: Civic Literacy and Living History at the Library is designed to be a cornerstone of Hernando County's contribution to Florida's America250 celebrations. By engaging the public in a series of thoughtful, intergenerational programs that explore America's founding principles and honor the legacy of service and sacrifice, the project will foster a deeper connection to American history and civic identity within Hernando County communities.

Public Engagement and Estimated Participation

The project is expected to engage over **1,000 individuals** across its 11-month span. This includes:

- 200+ attendees across core events such as **Living History Day, Veterans Tribute**, and **Founding Principles Family Night**.
- 100+ participants in the **Let Freedom Read!** Winter Reading Challenge.
- 150+ school-age children and families through **Civics Through Storytime** and interactive exhibits.
- Ongoing daily engagement with public exhibits and art installations in library lobby's and children's areas.
- Online reach through social media promotion and recorded content will further extend the project's visibility beyond in-person attendance.

Educational Product Distribution

Educational materials developed or curated for this project—such as take-home civic literacy packets, patriotic bookmarks, activity sheets, and curated reading lists—will be distributed to an estimated **500+ patrons**, including:

- 300 printed educational packets for children and teens (aligned with Florida curriculum standards).

- 100 civic reading guides and handouts for adults and educators.
- 100 printed community engagement forms to encourage submissions to the “Freedom Is...” community art installation.

All materials will also be made available digitally through the library’s website and social media, allowing schools and homeschool families to download resources at any time.

Economic and Community Benefit

The project supports local economic activity by:

- Partnering with local vendors, artists, and reenactors who will be compensated for participating in events.
- Attracting foot traffic to the four (4) library locations and adjacent businesses during large events.
- Strengthening community pride and engagement, which has indirect positive effects on civic participation and local quality of life.

The library will also collaborate with the local chapter of the **Daughters of the American Revolution**, veterans’ groups, and schools—encouraging inter-organizational partnerships and amplifying local impact.

Public and Educational Value

This initiative directly supports Florida’s America250 goals by:

- Providing free, accessible, and inclusive civic education.
- Creating shared learning experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds.
- Highlighting Florida’s role in the broader American story through local perspectives.
- Encouraging reflection on American identity, unity, and civil participation.

In doing so, *Voices of Liberty* will help ensure that Florida’s America250 celebration is not only a commemoration of the past, but also a call to civic responsibility, community cohesion, and lifelong learning.

6. Request Amount:

\$10,000



7. Budget Form

Show how you plan to spend the requested grant funds. Your budget should reflect only expenses that are specifically related to the project. No match is required. List each anticipated project activity on a separate line in the budget below, with its associated estimated cost. Any ineligible expenses included in the project budget will be removed from the funding request amount.

- Grantee general operating support, including applicant overhead, management expenses, and other costs that are not readily identifiable as expenditures for the goods and services required to complete project work (e.g., rent/mortgage, utilities, janitorial services, insurance, accounting, internet service, monthly expenses associated with security systems, non-grant related administrative and clerical staffing, and fundraising activities/events)
- Fixed capital outlay (acquisition, new construction, or improvements to real property)
- Site improvements (landscaping/grounds keeping, lighting, parking)
- Equipment and furniture
- Archaeological fieldwork
- State historical markers
- Purchase of collections (individual items or groups) and collections conservation and management (loans of objects are allowable)
- Fireworks or pyrotechnics
- Ephemeral decorations
- Promotional items
- Food/beverages/travel
- Anything prohibited by federal, state, and local laws, including the Florida Reference Guide for State Expenditures

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list, and the Department may evaluate the allowability of all expenditures in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

#..	Activity Description	Estimated Cost
1..	Guest Speaker Honoraria	\$2,000
2..	Living History Performer Stipends	\$2,000
3..	Printing of Educational Materials	\$1,000

4..	Civic Literacy Exhibit Design & Production Materials	\$1,000
5..	Storytime Supplies	\$500
6..	Reading Challenge Materials	\$500
7..	Art Supplies for "Freedom Is..." Community Display	\$1,000
8..	Display Panels and Signage for Public Exhibits	\$1,000
9..	Advertising	\$600
1..	Event Supplies (not decorations)	\$400
		\$10,000

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1 - 10 of 10 items

1. Non-Profit Status:

If the applicant is a 501(c)(3), provide a copy of the IRS determination letter.

Select files...

2. Florida Substitute W-9 Form*:

Available at DFS website
<https://flvendor.myfloridacfo.com>. Note that this is a state form, NOT your Federal W-9.

Name	Size	Actions
Hernando BOCC W9.pdf	120953 KB	View file

3. Optional Materials:

Applicants may attach additional materials that support the application (e.g., photographs, exhibit design documents, sample marketing materials, newspaper articles, budget justification/quotes for services, etc.)

Select files...

Name	Size	Actions
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Flyer.PNG

677429 KB

[View file](#)

Single Audit Act*

In accordance with Section 215.97(2)(a) and 215.97(8)(a), Florida Statutes, and the policies and procedures established by the Department of State, the grantee is required to certify annually if your organization with FEIN (insert FEIN here) expended \$750,000 or more from all combined state sources during your organization's fiscal year. If your organization has exceeded the threshold of \$750,000, your organization will be required to comply with the Single Audit Act. You will be required to complete a separate certification form in DOSGrants.com following the close of your fiscal year.

☒ I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statement and will comply with: Section 215.197, Florida Statutes, Florida Single Audit Act, and the policies and procedures established by the Department of State.

Review & Submit*

☒ I hereby certify that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of Hernando County Public Library System and that all information indicated is true and accurate. I acknowledge that my electronic signature below shall have the same legal effect as my written signature. I am aware that making a false statement or representation to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in s. 817.155, F.S., punishable as provided for by ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.084.

Signature*

Cynthia Loftis-Culp

>



Ron DeSantis, Governor
Cord Byrd, Secretary of State

Florida Department of State

Phone: (850) 245-6500

Questions or comments? [Contact Us](#) | [SiteMap](#)

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