

America 250 Florida Grants
Florida Department of State
Application Deadline: August 6, 2025
Grant Period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

The Florida Department of State is soliciting applications for projects related to America250 and the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The application submission period **will close on August 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)**. Applications will be submitted via [DOSGrants.com](https://dosgrants.com). Applications will only be accepted electronically and must be complete to be considered for evaluation.

America 250 Florida Grant Program

In 2026, Florida and the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. In December 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 24-267, which directed the Department of State to 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.

Pursuant to Line 2949 of the FY2026 General Appropriations Act, the 2025 Florida Legislature provided \$1,000,000 in funding for grants related to America250 and the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicant organizations must be:

- A Florida public entity (non-federal)
 - local governments
 - entities of state government
 - school districts
 - colleges and universities; or
- An active Florida nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3); AND
- In good standing with the Department at the time of application
 - Must NOT be in non-compliance status with any previously awarded Department grant
 - Must NOT owe the Department funds in connection with a previous grant received from any division of the Department, for which the applicant organization has been notified of the Department’s determination that a refund of grant funds is required.

NOTE: private schools, private colleges and universities are not public entities and must be nonprofit and tax exempt to meet the legal status requirement.

AWARD AMOUNT AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Minimum award request amount: \$10,000

Maximum award amount: \$100,000

Match: There is no match requirement for this program.

APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS

An applicant organization may only submit one (1) application under this program.

ALLOWABLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Projects for this grant program should relate to America250 and the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, through civic, cultural, historical, and educational content and programming.

Eligible activities include:

- Production of educational materials (short publications, web content, posters, interpretive signage)
- Lectures or lecture series

- Temporary or traveling exhibits (not permanently affixed)
- Development and execution of K-12 curricula (including student performances)
- Public and civic art (memorials, monuments, statues)
- Public performances (musical, theatrical, and dance productions)
- Marketing related to the specific project, excluding promotional items (the entire scope of work may NOT be marketing)

Ineligible activities include:

- 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, etc.)
- 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.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

Following the application submission deadline, a technical review of applications will be conducted to determine project eligibility.

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by the Department of State according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of project to America250 and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (up to 40 pts)
- Project impact (up to 30 pts)
- Project budget (reasonable and allowable costs) (up to 20 pts)
- Quality of application (up to 10 pts)

As required by Line 2949 of the FY2026 General Appropriations Act, a list of applications in score order (highest to lowest) will be included in a budget amendment submitted to the Legislative Budget Commission for funding consideration.

Please note that all eligible applications may not receive funding if the total request amount exceeds the \$1,000,000 appropriation.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Pursuant to Line 2949 of the FY2026 General Appropriations Act, these funds are held in reserve, and release of funds is contingent on submission of a budget amendment to the Legislative Budget Commission. Following release of funds by the Legislature, grantees will be required to sign a Grant Award Agreement with the Department containing specific administrative responsibilities, deliverables, and other terms and conditions to receive funding. Any unexpended balance of grant funds will revert at the end of the grant period.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding proposed projects or the online application form, please email the Department at DACgrants@dos.fl.gov.