

Public Law 109-441: Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



NPS Listening Sessions in Glendale, Arizona and Denver, Colorado - NPS Photos

December 2007 - Volume 1, Number 2

Listening Sessions A Success

Thank you for your interest and comments on the new grant program established by *Public Law 109-441: Preservation of Japanese American Confinement Sites*. During September and October 2007, the National Park Service (NPS) hosted 20 public listening sessions in 19 cities ranging from Honolulu, Hawaii to Washington, D.C.

More than 400 people participated in these sessions and expressed their thoughts and comments about how this newly authorized program should be organized and administered.

We also received more than 400 written comments during the comment period. Participants provided valuable suggestions and insight on the best ways to preserve and interpret this chapter in U.S. history. All of the comments have been reviewed, considered, and analyzed, and serve as the foundation of the grant's proposed project categories, evaluation criteria, and program guidelines. These are outlined for your consideration on page 4.

We believe that these elements of the grant program accurately reflect your ideas and concerns and also remain true to the intent of the law, which states "... that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites, and that these sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law."

Continued Opportunities for Public Comment

We ask that you take some time to review the different components of the proposed grant program included in this newsletter, and share your thoughts on how they can be improved.

Please provide your written comments on the enclosed comment card or enter your comments directly into the NPS public comment website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/imro> by **Friday, January 25, 2008**.

We also invite you to provide your thoughts in person at a national meeting that will be held on **Thursday, January 17, 2008** in Los Angeles at the Democracy Forum at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy.

Your continued participation in this process is vital to ensure that the implementation and outcome of this grant program is successful!

Next Steps

During this second phase in the development of the grant program, your input will assist us in revising the proposed project categories, evaluation criteria, and program guidelines before submitting the NPS final recommendations to Congress. **As of December 2007, Congress has not yet appropriated funding for this program.**

We thank you for your continued participation, and hope that you will remain involved throughout the development of this new grant program.

For more information on P.L. 109-441, or to review the first newsletter, please visit the following website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/imro>. You may also call or write the following NPS regional contacts:

PACIFIC WEST REGION

California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and other states not listed below

Contact: **Tom Leatherman**

Phone: 510-817-2701

Email: tom_leatherman@nps.gov

Hawaii

Contact: **Frank Hays**

Phone: 808-541-2693 x723

Email: frank_hays@nps.gov

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico

Contact: **Kara Miyagishima**

Phone: 303-969-2885

Email: kara_miyagishima@nps.gov

MIDWEST REGION

Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio

Contact: **Rachel Franklin-Weekley**

Phone: 402-661-1928

Email: rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov

What We Asked and What We Heard

The NPS posed four questions to gather insight into the public's hopes and expectations for the new grant program. Their responses to these questions were analyzed and are summarized below.

What are your hopes and expectations for the grant program?

Many respondents expressed their hope that projects will leave a legacy for future generations through the preservation of both the physical confinement sites and the stories of internees' experiences during World War II.

The respondents also expect that this grant program will teach the public about the actions of the U.S. government in the abrogation of civil and constitutional rights of Japanese Americans during World War II in order to prevent a similar tragedy from being repeated. Respondents also stressed the importance of continued involvement and participation by former internees and their families, Japanese American communities, and stakeholders and partners in the development and implementation of the grant program.

What types of projects do you think should receive funding through this program?

Respondents strongly support both preservation and educational projects related to the confinement sites. Suggested categories of proposed grant projects and programs included:

- educational programs and materials to relay the story of confinement during World War II;
- preserving the sites, buildings, structures, and landscapes of the confinement sites;
- collecting and preserving artifacts, including photos and other camp related collections materials;
- providing historical markers at or near the historic confinement sites;
- oral history projects and programs;
- and capital projects to provide interpretive facilities at the historic sites to enhance the visitor experience.

Many respondents felt that projects should reach out to new audiences and use technology (interactive media) to help tell the stories and reach new audiences.

What We Heard

“...the heart of internment is the camps themselves, the hallowed places, remote as they are. When people visit the site, they feel the onus of the incarceration. It emanates from the soil, the temperature whether hot or cold, the desolation, and they know the injustice of internment. Protecting and interpreting those places is paramount.”

“It is crucial to remember that the generation that experienced the trauma of the internment...are a dying generation. Time is of the essence for this grant program.”

“Anything that would keep the stories of the internees alive—so it never happens again.”

“My primary expectation is that any project which receives funding stays true to the voices of the people that were incarcerated in the concentration camps. . . .”

“I see the value of the grant program as an important vehicle for enabling others to understand what happened during World War II and the lessons learned. While these sites might be considered natural museums of sorts in desolate locations, they symbolize much more than that. So there must be a strong public awareness and educational component of the grant program and ultimately successful grantees.”

What should the evaluation criteria be for determining which proposals receive consideration for funding (when it is available) through the grant program?

Respondents provided numerous suggestions related to criteria that should be used to evaluate grant proposals, including:

- High priority should be given to projects with urgent needs, such as building stabilization and oral histories.
- Projects should improve the conditions of the sites.
- Projects should achieve long-lasting results, high visibility, and reach a large audience.
- Projects should have an educational and outreach component, and be effective at conveying the stories of the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to effectively manage the project in a cost effective manner and complete the project on-time.
- Projects should have strong and broad support by stakeholders, including local communities, former internees, partners and concerned citizens.

Do you have any additional comments?

In addition to the suggestions made above, respondents also provided comments about other aspects of the grant program, including:

- Establish a system to provide support to applicants.
- Form an advisory committee to help:
 - ✧ encourage collaboration and minimize competition between different groups working towards similar goals.
 - ✧ ensure that people who are knowledgeable about confinement can advise the NPS about the future of the grant program and to help in the evaluation of grant applications.
- Make all information produced through this program available and accessible to the public.
- Ensure that the evaluation and selection process is inclusive and transparent.

A more detailed summary of the public comments is available on the NPS public comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/imro>. Please select “Grant Program for Preservation of Japanese American World War II Confinement Sites.” The report is included in the “Document List” link and is titled “Summary of Public Comments.doc.”

What We Heard

“... I feel strongly that this project... should encourage a deeper understanding of the causes of the confinement and what detainees experienced in point of physical, economic and psychological hardships. It should strive to encourage in the public their responsibility to try to prevent this type of violation of civil and human rights, which undermines the very foundations of a democratic society.”

“I also would hope that there would be ample opportunity to hear, via oral interviews, the words of those who were confined, to see artifacts of their lives. . . their life in the bitter cold of winter with the wind biting into every “home” and the blistering heat of summer, concentrated by the exterior tar paper of the barracks. . . .”

“The funding should go to projects that are long-term and sustainable including interpretation and restoration of the sites, disseminating virtual information, constructing museums, performing oral interviews of former internees, and if necessary acquiring the remaining land.”

“I would like to have an emphasis placed on collecting oral histories from the survivors of these camps, whatever ethnicity, since we are aging and there are fewer and fewer of us. Many of us have artifacts we would like to see placed for public viewing, not tucked into Smithsonian vaults.”

Legislative Requirements of the Grant Program

Public Law 109-441 established specific legislative parameters and eligibility requirements to help guide our efforts in the development of evaluation criteria for the program. These legislative requirements are listed below:

According to Public Law 109-441 all **grant applicants** must meet certain eligibility requirements and be:

1. Private, non-profit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments, educational institutions, and other public entities.
2. Must have a demonstrated commitment of a 2:1 federal to non-federal match (example: \$100 federal--\$50 partner).

According to Public Law 109-441 all **grant applications** must meet certain eligibility requirements, including:

1. All grants must be for the purpose of identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, protecting, restoring, and repairing confinement sites.
2. Acquisition of non-federal property is allowable for only Jerome, Rohwer, Topaz, and Honouliuli. All acquisition of lands using federal funding at these sites must have the written consent of the property owner(s).
3. All grants must directly benefit one or more of the confinement sites.*

*Public Law 109-441 defines historic confinement sites as the 10 internment camps (Gila River, Granada, Heart Mountain, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka, Poston, Rohwer, Topaz, and Tule Lake), as well as those specifically identified in the NPS publication, *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*.

The Department of the Interior, through the NPS, may determine that other sites not listed in this publication are eligible for the grant program. The proposed certification process for additional historic sites is described on page 6 of this newsletter.

Draft Project Categories, Criteria and Guidelines for the Preservation of Historic Confinement Sites Grant Program

Working within this legislative framework and having listened to your comments, we have developed the following draft project categories, evaluation criteria and program guidelines for your consideration.

Draft Project Categories:

1. Property acquisition exclusive to Jerome, Rohwer, Topaz, Honouliuli (as stipulated in the law)
2. Documentation projects, including identification, research, and evaluation of confinement sites (examples: National Historic Landmark and National Register of Historic Places nominations and archeological surveys)
3. Interpretation and education projects related to confinement sites (examples: wayside exhibits, education curriculum, and creative arts)
4. Preservation of confinement sites and related historic resources (examples: stabilization, restoration, rehabilitation, acquisition and relocation of historic buildings and structures to their original locations, reconstruction of key types of structures, and collections conservation)
5. Recording and sharing oral histories
6. Capital projects (examples: interpretive centers, restrooms, and interpretive trails)
7. Planning (examples: interpretive plans, land use plans, and resource management plans)

Draft Evaluation Criteria:

1. What is the need for the project?
 - ◇ How does this project address a critical issue (examples: threatened resources, health/safety concerns)?
 - ◇ How will the project increase public awareness and understanding of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites?
 - ◇ How will the project preserve or improve the conditions of Japanese American World War II confinement site resources?
2. How will the project produce measurable results (examples: increase visitation to the site, reach a large and diverse audience, remain relevant and available for current and future generations)?
3. How will this project be sustained?
4. Is the project feasible?
 - ◇ Is the project cost effective?
 - ◇ Does the applicant demonstrate an ability to complete the project in a timely, cost effective, and professional manner, ensuring laws and standards are met?
 - ◇ Has adequate planning been completed for the project?
5. Does the project have stakeholder support and public involvement?

Additional Program Guidelines:

1. Minimum grant funds will be \$5,000 and maximum amounts for grants cannot exceed 10% of the program's annual congressional appropriation.
2. Grant awards may be lower than grant requests.
3. Each applicant can receive only one grant per grant cycle.
4. Each applicant can submit only three grant applications per grant cycle.
5. An advisory committee, consisting of no more than 15 members, will be established to assist the NPS in the administration of the grant program and review of the grant applications. Members of the advisory committee will be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and would consist of individuals knowledgeable in the preservation and interpretation efforts related to Japanese American World War II Confinement Sites, including:
 - ◇ Academic scholar(s) noted for their expertise on confinement sites
 - ◇ Former internee(s)
 - ◇ Non-profit organization(s) actively engaged in the interpretation and/or preservation of confinement sites
 - ◇ Confinement site owner(s)
 - ◇ Tribal government(s) associated with a confinement site
 - ◇ State or local government(s) actively engaged in the preservation of a confinement site
 - ◇ Cultural Resource specialist(s) experienced in the preservation of confinement sites (e.g., archeologist, historian, curator, landscape architect)
6. Indirect and/or administrative costs may not exceed 25% for a project.
7. The national grant program will be administered from a NPS regional office in Denver, Oakland, or Omaha.
8. Projects involving the preservation of historic properties are considered "undertakings" as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470). Accordingly, grant recipients must consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office prior to the receipt of funds.

Commonly Asked Questions

1. *Can this funding be used for the preservation of confinement sites that held people of Italian, German, and Latin American ancestry?*

Projects that involve the preservation and/or interpretation of confinement sites that held people of Italian, German, or Latin American ancestry are eligible only if they are directly associated with a Japanese American World War II confinement site authorized in Public Law 109-441 and are part of a larger project related to the overall story of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

2. *Which sites are eligible to receive funding through this grant program?*

P.L. 109-441 identifies the eligible sites as those that are included in the site document map in *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*. The law also has a provision to consider “other historically significant locations, as determined by the Secretary, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.” The NPS will establish a process to consider additional sites for eligibility. The process could involve review and consideration by an advisory committee and/or listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

3. *Can individuals apply for funding through this grant program?*

P.L. 109-441 states that only state, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private non-profit organizations are eligible to submit applications for this grant program. Individuals may only apply through those organizations and entities listed above.

4. *Are matching funds required? If so, what type of match is allowable?*

Public Law 109-441 requires a 2:1 federal to non-federal match. For example, a \$15,000 project would involve \$10,000 in federal funding and a \$5,000 non-federal match. Acceptable types of a non-federal match could include donations of cash, goods, land, services, and equipment, which are directly related to the performance of the project. For donations of land and easements, these must have been purchased within 1-2 years of the grant application to be considered eligible as a match. Donations of land value must be supported by an appraisal, meeting the Uniform Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.



Artwork by George Yano
Courtesy of Manzanar NHS

Please Join Us

Please join us at a national meeting to discuss the proposed draft criteria and program guidelines for the PL 109-441 grant program. The National Park Service will host two meeting times as indicated below. We are also exploring options to make this national meeting accessible via the Internet. Please visit the NPS public comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/imro> for more information on the national meeting.

NATIONAL MEETING
Thursday, January 17, 2008
10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Democracy Forum
at the National Center for
Preservation of Democracy
111 North Central Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90012

MILESTONES

January 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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March 2008						
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30	31					

LATE DECEMBER 2007
Public Comment Period Begins

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17
National Meeting in
Los Angeles

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25
Public Comment
Period Closes


MID-FEBRUARY

NPS Report Transmitted
to Congress
TENTATIVE

EARLY MARCH

Third Newsletter Published
TENTATIVE

Public Law 109-441:
Preservation of
Japanese American
World War II
Confinement Sites



**Thank you for your interest in
Public Law 109-441:
Preservation of
Japanese American World War II
Confinement Sites Grant Program**

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