

75-2729. Heritage trust fund; historic preservation project grants; conditions and requirements, award; amounts transferred from state general fund. (a) (1) There is hereby established in the state treasury the heritage trust fund. All moneys deposited in the heritage trust fund shall be used for the purpose of awarding grants to assist historic preservation projects involving property included in the national register of historic places or the state register of historic places, excluding property owned by the state or federal government, and shall be used by the state historical society for the administration of the heritage trust fund program. At least 50% of the amount awarded annually in grants shall be used for the preservation of eligible properties owned by county and local governments, county and local historical societies and by private nonprofit organizations. The state historical society may also provide grant assistance from moneys in the heritage trust fund on a matching basis and also may establish a revolving fund loan program from moneys in such fund. The state historical society may establish different matching fund requirements for the various types of applicants, but the matching contributions required from for-profit corporations shall be dollar for dollar. For-profit corporation applicants shall be assisted only if the property's continued existence is threatened or its rehabilitation is not economically feasible without grant assistance. The state historical society shall ensure that such moneys are expended for the purpose of this section, and may adopt rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

(2) In evaluating grant applications involving historic preservation projects under subsection (a)(1), the state historical society shall consider the following factors: The level of historical significance of the property; the condition of the property; the urgency of the preservation work proposed; whether or not the property is endangered; the type of work proposed; a geographical distribution of assisted properties; the administrative ability of the applicant; the potential benefit to the community and the state; community support for the project; ineligibility of the project for other funds; and an assessment of the need of the owner for the grant assistance to do the project.

(3) (A) The state historical society shall establish provisions to recapture grant moneys in accordance with the following factors: If an approved rehabilitated building is held by the grantee for longer than five years after the completion of the grant project, there is no recapture of the grant funds; if the owner, or designated heir, in the case of the owner's death, disposes of the property after a holding period of less than one year after the completion of the grant project, 100% of the grant is recaptured; and for properties held between one and five years, the grant recapture amount is reduced by 20% per year.

(B) The state historical society may inspect a rehabilitated property at any time during the five-year period and may revoke or invalidate the approval if work was not undertaken as presented in the grant application or if further unapproved alterations have been made. Modifications made during the five-year period following the completion of the grant shall be made in accordance with standards established by the state historical society.

(b) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the heritage trust fund interest earnings based on:

(1) The average daily balance of moneys in the heritage trust fund for the preceding month; and

(2) the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio for the preceding month.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all expenditures from the heritage trust fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of the state historical society or a person designated by the secretary.

History: L. 1990, ch. 351, § 2; L. 1992, ch. 272, § 14; L. 1996, ch. 253, § 30; May 23.