

# Notice of Funding Opportunity



## The Unity Cemetery Preservation Fund

The Unity Cemetery Preservation Fund (hereafter the Fund) provides support for the preservation of historic African American cemeteries. The Fund defines "historic cemeteries" as cemeteries with multiple graves dating from approximately 1800 to 1942. Our focus is on the southeastern United States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Virginia. Funds can be used for projects that include any of the following: mapping, site assessment, and other data collection; conservation treatments for grave markers and other funerary features; landscape stabilization; public outreach. An annual award of up to \$50,000 will be given to a group that has identified a cemetery in need of such attention and agrees to shepherd the project through the multi-year process.

Applications are being accepted at <https://forms.gle/Ddwp6S45PedYk7ki8>

### What is the Fund:

The Fund is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation established to provide funding to support the preservation of historic African American cemeteries.

### Who is eligible to apply:

Not-for-profit stewardship groups, municipalities, and educational institutions.

### Deadlines

**February 28, 2025:** Applications due, although applications will be accepted prior to the due date.

**May 2025:** Grantee chosen and notified.

Funding will be available at the time the award is granted.

The grantee organization has eighteen (18) months to complete the project.

### How are the applications assessed?

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of professionals in the fields of historic cemetery preservation, archaeology, and the humanities.

## How are funds distributed?

Funds are available immediately following the grantee award. Depending on the budget and timeline of actions submitted by the applicant, funds will be distributed in two or three payments directly to the Fund awardee or its agent. These payments will be made to allow for upfront budgeted deposits and final payments to vendors. The Fund strongly encourages organizations to either establish a separate bank account to manage project funding or partner with a larger organization that can effectively manage the flow of funds. Itemized documentation of expenditures is required.

## How can funds be used?

All Fund monies will go directly to services that support conservation and preservation efforts of the cemetery. No funds can be used for salaries or general landscape maintenance.

## Are matching funds or in-kind services required?

There is no match requirement. However, organizations applying are strongly encouraged to reach out to partners within the community who can help them. Local municipalities, universities and colleges, historical or genealogical societies, and other public and private organizations make excellent partners. Many partners may be positioned to offer in-kind or pro bono services that will allow Fund monies to go further. Strong partnerships result in broader support of your project and promote project sustainability.

## What kind of reporting is required?

Awardees will submit a mid-project report and final report, including activities undertaken. Examples include a draft preservation plan mid-project, site documentation efforts, conservation specialist and monument company report if applicable, landscape stabilization details, expenditure documentation, and such.

Grantees will agree to photograph project activities during the project and submit these images along with local media coverage to the Fund for use in promoting African American cemetery preservation. Grantees will also commit to a public event to highlight efforts at their cemetery. Examples of low to no-cost events will be provided.