

Version: BR 17-19 Agency Capital Budget Request

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/8/2016 11:56AM

Project Number: 30000021

Project Title: Historic Cemetery Grant Program

Project Class: Grant

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2018

Agency Priority: 3

Project Summary

In 2016 the legislature passed HB 2637, creating a state historic cemetery capital grant program within the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Grants can be used for construction, rehabilitation, or renovation that preserves the historic character, features, or materials of a decaying or abandoned cemetery. There are more than 250 cemeteries that have had fiscal issues resulting in limited care or even abandonment. The grants will assist with protecting the integrity of the historic cemetery and funding necessary improvements and rehabilitation. The agency is requesting \$515,000, similar to the Heritage Barns program, as the expectation is that many requests will be small. No request can exceed \$50,000. The agency assumes that up to 20 or more cemeteries could receive grant assistance. Provide answers to the following questions, which will inform decision makers about the proposed project.

Project Description

Identify the problem or opportunity addressed. Why is the request a priority? (Numbers not served, students without classrooms, budget savings, safety improvements, history, and other backup necessary to understand the need for the request.)

Washington State has over 1800 historic cemeteries and burial sites. Due to burial alternatives, particularly cremation, cemeteries have seen a drastic decline in revenue across the nation and in the state of Washington. Over 80% of "burials" are cremations as opposed to in-ground interments resulting in a loss of operating revenue for existing cemeteries. The lack of operating funds has resulted in the loss of care budgets for many small and large community cemeteries and as a result cemeteries are struggling to maintain the condition of their cemetery. We have seen cases, such as in Lewis County, where privately owned cemeteries are being abandoned as they are no longer fiscally viable. These small grants will assist historic cemeteries with small maintenance activities not to exceed \$50,000. There is no match required. Grants can be used for construction, rehabilitation, or renovation that preserves the historic character, features or materials of the cemetery. Grant recipients must maintain the cemetery for 10 years.

What will the request produce or construct (i.e., design of a building, construction of additional space, etc.)? When will the project start and complete? Identify whether the project can be phased, and if so, which phase is included in the request.

The project is intended to benefit the public by preserving outstanding examples of the state's historical heritage, enabling historic cemeteries to continue to serve their communities, and honoring the military veterans buried within them.

How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified in question #1? What would be the result of not taking action?

The grant would be able to help small historic cemeteries suffering from fiscal issues with costs associated with their care and maintenance. Currently there are more than 250 historic cemeteries that are threatened that the grant will help to preserve and it is anticipated that approximately 20 or more historic cemeteries could be assisted through the grant program. Historic cemeteries are an important feature of Washington's diverse heritage. In addition to marking the final resting places of our ancestors and many of the state's veterans, they yield information about our state's social, religious, artistic, and cultural heritage. The consequences of not creating the state historic cemetery capital grant program will be a continuation of the potential for the State's valuable historic cemeteries to fall into decay with little or no care and maintenance being performed. Failure to help subsidize the costs of these small historic cemeteries could even result in the abandonment of these cemeteries.

Which clientele would be impacted by the budget request? Where and how many units would be added, people or communities served, etc. Be prepared to provide detailed cost backup.

Communities statewide would benefit from the grant program and it is anticipated that 20 or more historic cemeteries across the state could receive funding.

Does the request include IT-related costs? (See the IT Appendix for guidance, and follow directions to meet the OCIO review requirement.) What alternatives were explored? Why was the recommended alternative chosen?

No IT costs for this capital request

Will non-state funds be used to complete the project? How much, what fund source, and could the request result in matching federal, state, local, or private funds?

No

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Describe how the project supports the agency's strategic/master plans, contributes to statewide goal, or enables the agency to perform better. Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming, and other analyses as appropriate.

The proposed package meets Goal 1 (enhance communities by actively engaging historic preservation with other forces shaping our environment), Goal 2 (engage a broad spectrum of the public in preservation), and Goal 3 (strengthen policies and planning processes to enhance informed and cross-disciplinary decision-making for managing cultural and historic resources) of the agency's strategic plan, The Washington State Historic Preservation Plan 2014-2019, Getting the Future Right. The proposal specifically meets Goals 1A to create new and enhance existing incentives for historic preservation and to increase awareness of the community and economic benefits of preservation. The proposed package also meets Goal 2a to improve and expand information about preservation and Goal 2d to build awareness, enthusiasm, and support for historic preservation. Lastly, the project meets Goal 3A by establishing policies and providing tools to improve protection of cultural and historic resources.

For projects linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda. See Chapter 14.4 in the 2017-19 Operating Budget Instructions

There is no link to the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

Is there additional information you would like decision makers to know when evaluating this request?

No

Location

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

Project Type

Grants

Grant Recipient Organization: Active cemeteries

RCW that establishes grant: 27.34

Application process used

The agency is required to establish a grants review committee. The committee must have at least five members with expertise or association with historic preservation, cemetery associations, local cemetery boards, or other professional organizations that the Director finds appropriate. Grant applications are considered on the basis of the relative historical significance of the cemetery, whether the proposed project will result in lower costs of maintenance and operations, and the relative percentage of military burials in the cemetery.

Growth Management impacts

None.

Funding

Acct Code	Account Title	Estimated Total	Expenditures		2017-19 Fiscal Period	
			Prior Biennium	Current Biennium	Reapprops	New Approps
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	2,575,000				515,000
	Total	2,575,000	0	0	0	515,000
Future Fiscal Periods						
		2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	515,000	515,000	515,000	515,000	

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Total	515,000	515,000	515,000	515,000
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Operating Impacts

No Operating Impact

Narrative

Employees assisting on this capital grant program are already fully funded from operating and there would be no additional burden to the operating program.

Parameter

Entered As

Interpreted As

Biennium	2017-19	2017-19
Agency	355	355
Version	BR-A	BR-A
Project Classification	*	All Project Classifications
Capital Project Number	30000021	30000021
Sort Order	Project Class	Project Class
Include Page Numbers	Y	Yes
For Word or Excel	Y	Y
User Group	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
User Id	*	All User Ids