

August 16, 2010

Memorandum To: 2011 Preservation Grant Applicants

From: Randall Gabrielan

RE: Changes in the Preservation Grant application for year 2011.

Significant changes are part of the 2011 grants application. Some represent a tightening of the rules and regulations, but one possible enhancement is offered, the potential for an increase in the maximum grant. Despite the more-carefully drawn regulations, the prepared, conscientious and active grantee can do as well under the new guidelines as before, or potentially even better. Noteworthy changes for 2011 include:

- The first half of a grant will not be paid in advance.
- A protracted failure to complete an outstanding grant project will mar future eligibility (with a one year permissible delay).
- The maximum grant may be increased from a \$5,000 match to a \$7,500 match.
- Among lesser changes is a clarification of the insurance provision and a requirement that the County of Monmouth be included as an additional insured under a successful grantee's general liability.

The first two bulleted items stem from a rising level of accountability for all public funds. The Commission, as ardent as ever in fulfilling its mission of promoting preservation, of course, wants each grantee to succeed. However, there is serious question over the propriety of releasing public money for work not yet done. In addition, while we have been lenient in extending the program's long-standing time deadline for completion, and will continue to show understanding for conditions beyond the grantee's control, there will now be a narrow limit on the number of grant projects that can be outstanding simultaneously, a response to too many untimely projects.

The increase in the maximum amount to \$7,500 may be an enhancement, but whether or not the Commission will raise its traditional \$5,000 limit depends on the number of applications, their quality with amounts requested, while both criteria will be evaluated with the Commission's long-standing desire to dispense the grant funds broadly.

It is more important than ever to attend the brief grants workshop on Monday, September 27th. Registration guidelines are in the letter of Grants Committee Chairperson Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan. Please indicate whether *or* not you plan to attend. While the changes are clear-cut in print, we have long-believed that the workshop is helpful reinforcement even for the experienced applicant. In addition, our spoken comments this year may provide you with depth of understanding and our commitment to support the capable and effective grantee.