

# Oil Region National Heritage Area 2026 Recreation & Heritage Mini-



The Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (ORA) as manager of the Oil Region National and State Heritage Area (ORNHA) invites eligible entities to apply to the 2026 Outdoor Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant Program to fund projects and programs that sustain, promote, or enhance outdoor recreation offerings in and the unique heritage of the ORHNA, which encompasses all of Venango County and the City of Titusville, Hydetown Borough, and Oil Creek Township in Crawford County.

## Eligibility:

*Funding for the Oil Region National Heritage Area 2026 Outdoor Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant Program is financed in part with a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Heritage Areas Program Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. As such, all DCNR grant terms and conditions also apply to this contract.*

Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c)3 organizations that are currently registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations, municipalities, and counties. Projects must have a significant connection to outdoor recreation in and/or the heritage of the ORNHA.

## Definition of Projects:

The ORNHA 2026 Outdoor Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant program is meant to assist sites and organizations, as well as municipalities and counties, to develop new programs, partnerships, exhibits, tours, and other initiatives that are consistent with the Interpretation goals in the 2021 Oil Region National Heritage Area Strategic Plan report (see Appendix A).

## Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Educational and/or media pieces that promote ORNHA recreation or heritage
- New or revised brochures, pamphlets, maps, etc.
- Installation of recreation amenities, such as bike repair stations, benches, etc.
- Videos highlighting the region's recreational opportunities or heritage
- Creation of new wayside materials (interpretive panels, historical markers, etc.)
- Enhancement, repair, or creation of historical exhibits
- Materials to properly preserve/store historic artifacts for future use
- Arrangement of public historical events (speakers, demonstrations, workshops, tours, etc.)

Eligible entities may apply for more than one project as part of this grant application as long as the total costs for the projects do not exceed \$25,000 and the total grant request does not exceed \$5,000. Entities should list multiple projects in priority order in their application. The ORA and the review committee may award funding to all or some of the projects in the applications, based on the completeness of the applications and available funding.

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## Explanation of Grant Process:

ORA, in partnership with DCNR, has funding available to support projects up to \$25,000 with a maximum award of \$5,000. Applicants must provide a 1:1 ratio cash match and/or an eligible non-cash (in-kind/volunteer) match.

All eligible and interested parties are required to complete the attached application for their project(s). Applicants may contact Kim Harris, ORA Outdoor Recreation Program Manager, or Abigail Watson-Popescu, ORA Heritage Program Manager, if they are unsure of their eligibility or the eligibility of their proposed projects.

Applications are due August 3, 2026, and will then be scored by a review committee. Applicants will be notified of award decisions on or around September 1, 2026. Projects must be completed, and funds must be expended before June 1, 2027.

The grants are reimbursable, meaning awardees are responsible for paying upfront and must submit receipts for reimbursement. The ORA will make payments within 30 days of receipt of the required proof of payment.

Once projects are complete, the ORA and DCNR require the following for reimbursement payments:

- Copies of all invoices and proof of payments
- No costs may be incurred prior to award announcements
- Documentation of all match dollars and non-cash match received and spent on projects
- Photographs with narrative documenting the deliverables and outcomes of the projects
- Completion of DCNR Success Story (template will be provided)

All final project materials and publicity, including press releases and social media posts, need to reference funding assistance from the Oil Region Alliance and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (logos and verbiage will be provided to awardees). ORA and DCNR may also promote and acknowledge funded projects in media announcements and publicity.

Complete the following application and include any necessary supporting documentation. The timeline for the ORNHA 2026 Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant Program is as follows:

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| • Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant Announcement              | May 1, 2026  |
| • Virtual Mini-Grant Overview and Q&A for Potential Applicants | June 1, 2026, at 4:00 PM   |
| • Submission of Applications                                   | August 3, 2026   |
| • Committee review of Applications                             | Between August 3 and August 15, 2026   |
| • Award Announcements  | On or around September 1, 2026   |
| • Project completion and documentation                         | June 1, 2027 * No extensions will be available for this round of mini-grants due to funding limitations. |

Direct any questions to Kim Harris, ORA Outdoor Recreation Program Manager, [kharris@oilregion.org](mailto:kharris@oilregion.org), or Abigail Watson-Popescu, ORA Heritage Program Manager, [apopescu@oilregion.org](mailto:apopescu@oilregion.org); 814-677-3152 814-677-3152.

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SubGrantee (Name of Organization managing project):

501(c)3 BCO Number:

Name and Title of Applicant:

Name and Title of Contact Person (if different):

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Project Location (Municipality and County):

Project Title:

Total Project Cost:

Grant Request Amount:

Match Amount(s) (clearly define all cash and non-cash match and if these amounts are secured, pledged, or pending):

Applicant Signature and Date:

# Oil Region National Heritage Area 2026 Recreation & Heritage Mini-



PROJECT SCOPE (Summary of project(s) and work to be completed):

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Please attach no more than three additional pages answering the following):

- A. Describe clearly how the project relates to the Oil Region National Heritage Area (ORNHA).
- B. Describe the cultural conservation, historic preservation, educational, interpretive, etc. goals the project addresses.
- C. What are the direct economic impacts of the project(s) on the applicant, community, and the ORNHA? Describe the extent of interagency cooperation and organizational partnerships involved in the project(s).
- D. Describe your organization's experience with public/private grant administration. (Has your organization ever administered a public grant? When? Was it successful?)
- E. Indicate sources of cash match and non-cash match by indicating: name of organization(s), amount/award, whether public or private funding, and whether in-hand, pledged, or pending. Include letter(s) of commitment from match sources that have been pledged or pending.
- F. If relevant, indicate all in-kind financial project partners and the estimated value of their contributions to the project.
- G. Acknowledge that if the project is selected, the sub-grantee will agree and adhere to DCNR's Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause (see following pages).
- H. A timeline of project completion must be attached to this application. All work, including final documentation, must be completed by June 1, 2027.

# Oil Region National Heritage Area 2026 Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant Application



## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES NONDISCRIMINATION/ NONDISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAUSE

*DCNR-2024-Gen*

*Gen-GPM-1; Rev. 1/2024*

1. **Representations.** The Grantee represents that it is presently in compliance with and will remain in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies relating to nondiscrimination and sexual harassment for the term of the agreement. The Grantee shall, upon request and within the time periods requested by the Commonwealth, furnish all necessary employment documents and records, including EEO-1 reports, and permit access to its books, records, and accounts by the Commonwealth for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with provisions of this Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Clause.
2. **Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment Obligations.** The Grantee shall not:
  - a. in any manner discriminate in the hiring of any employee(s) for the performance of the activities required under this agreement or any subgrant agreement, contract, or subcontract, by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (“PHRA”) and applicable federal laws, against any citizen of this Commonwealth who is qualified and available to perform the work to which the employment relates.
  - b. in any manner discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the PHRA and applicable federal laws, against or intimidate any of its employees.
  - c. in any manner discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of the PHRA and applicable federal laws, in the provision of services under this agreement or any subgrant agreement, contract, or subcontract.
  - d. in any manner discriminate by reason of race, gender, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or in violation of PHRA and applicable federal laws, against any subgrantee, contractor, subcontractor, or supplier who is qualified to perform the work to which this agreement relates.
  - e. in any manner discriminate against employees by reason of participation in or decision to refrain from participating in labor activities protected under the Public Employee Relations Act, Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act, or National Labor Relations Act, as applicable, and to the extent determined by entities charged with the Acts’ enforcement and shall comply with any provision of law establishing organizations as employees’ exclusive representatives.
3. **Establishment of Grantee Policy.** The Grantee shall establish and maintain a written nondiscrimination and sexual harassment policy that complies with the applicable law and these Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment provisions and shall inform its employees in writing of the policy. The policy must contain a provision that states that sexual harassment will not be tolerated and employees who practice it will be

# Oil Region National Heritage Area 2026 Recreation and Heritage Mini-Grant Application

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disciplined. For the entire period of this agreement, the Grantee shall: (1) post its written nondiscrimination and sexual harassment policy or these Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment provisions conspicuously in easily accessible and well-lighted places customarily frequented by employees at or near where the grant activities are performed; or (2) provide electronic notice of the policy or this clause to its employees not less than annually.

4. **Notification of Violations.** The Grantee's obligations pursuant to these provisions are ongoing from the effective date and through the termination date of the agreement. Accordingly, the Grantee shall notify the Commonwealth if, at any time during the term of this agreement, it becomes aware of any actions or occurrences that would result in violation of these provisions.
5. **Cancellation or Termination of Agreement.** The Commonwealth may cancel or terminate this agreement and all money due or to become due under this agreement may be forfeited for a violation of the terms and conditions of these Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment provisions. In addition, the granting agency may proceed with debarment or suspension and may place the Grantee in the Contractor Responsibility File.
6. **Subgrant Agreements, Contracts, and Subcontracts.** The Grantee shall include these Nondiscrimination/Sexual Harassment provisions in its subgrant agreements, contracts, and subcontracts with all subgrantees, contractors, and subcontractors providing goods or services under this agreement. The incorporation of these provisions in the Grantor's subgrants, contracts, or subcontracts does not create privity of contract between the Commonwealth and any subgrantee, contractor, or subcontractor, and no third-party beneficiaries are created by those provisions. If the Grantee becomes aware of a subgrantee's, contractor's, or subcontractor's violation of these provisions, the Grantee shall use its best efforts to ensure the subgrantee's, contractor's, or subcontractor's compliance with these provisions.