Washington State Genealogical Society

Supportive Grant Program Guidance

The Washington State Genealogical Society created the WSGS Supportive Grant Program in 2015 (formerly known as the Innovative Grant program). The grants, up to $250 each, are designed to support the inventive and creative efforts of WSGS-member societies and organizations or fill a society-identified need. Up to two grants may be awarded annually.

Guidance:

1. Projects appropriate for Supportive Grant funding should not be used for on-going society operations or overhead.

   While no means comprehensive, here are some examples of projects that might be considered:

   - Purchase of equipment or expertise to conduct successful post-COVID society meetings.
   - Purchase of furniture, equipment, books, magazines or other publications/ subscriptions for an existing or new society library;
   - Locating, inventorying, restoring and/or preserving a local cemetery;
   - Hosting a special event, presentation, or workshop;
   - Purchasing genealogical-related software, scanner, projector, peripherals or other equipment or technology;
   - Developing a project serving special populations, e.g. senior citizens, children/teens, tribal members, ethnic organizations, etc.;
   - Restoring and/or preservation of photos or original documents;
   - Identifying and unifying old photos, Bibles, quilts, letters or other significant memorabilia with family members, museums, or other good homes;
   - Creation of a website, blog or other communication tool;
   - Publication of local history or narratives;
   - Other innovative projects that support and enhance your genealogical society.

2. Applicant societies or organizations must pledge matching funds (up to $250). Societies with less than 50 members may pledge volunteer time in lieu of dollars. Volunteer time will be calculated at the rate of $17 per hour. For example, a small society may apply for a grant if they pledge 15 hours of volunteer time to the project.

3. All work on the grant project must be completed before the next year's grant process.

4. Societies receiving grants must provide a written summary report to the WSGS Board of Directors following the project's completion.

5. A society may receive only one Supportive Grant per year, although that society may apply in subsequent years.

6. Applicants must complete all parts of the application form, including what they will use the grant funding for and why they want the grant. Description of the project should be limited to a few paragraphs, no more than one page.

7. The submitted application will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the WSGS Board of Directors. Review committee members cannot be members of an applicant society. Applicants may be contacted during the review period for more information. The committee will recommend projects deemed worthy of funding to the WSGS Board who will make the final funding decision. The review committee or Board may elect not to fund any grants, if, in their opinion, the project(s) are not appropriate. The Board's decision on the grant awards is final.

8. The review committee will evaluate the applications using the following criteria.

    - Was the application complete and timely?
    - Does the society have more or less than 50 members?
    - Does the project support the local society's vision, mission and/or goals and objectives? If so, include the pertinent statements or where they can be found on-line. These attachments are not counted in the grant's one-page limit.
    - Does the request support the Washington State Genealogical Society's objectives?
    - Is the project innovative? Unique? Supportive of the local society? Reviewers may also consider whether the society is the sole participant or is involving other partners; whether the project is long- or short-term; whether the project is already in place or a new project.
    - Has the society demonstrated a past history of successful projects or is this a first-time or once-only project?

For more information, please contact the WSGS Awards Committee at outreach@wasgs.org. Please place "**Supportive Grants"** in the subject line.