



Amana Colonies Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

The Amana Colonies Land Use District (ACLUD) is the Certified Local Government within the Amana Colonies National Historic Landmark, established in 1965 to preserve 26,000 acres encompassing the Amana Colonies. The Amana Colonies were established as 7 unique villages between 1855 and 1864, as home for the Inspirationists, a utopian religious society, moving out of New York to avoid increasing urbanization around Buffalo after fleeing persecution in Germany. At its peak, the Society had over 1,800 members and was the largest communal society in the United States. Out of nearly 300 such communities founded in the 19th century, the Amana Society was also one of the four longest lived, and among the most financially and culturally successful.

In 2024 the ACLUD was awarded \$748,375 through the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant (PBHRG) program from National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Of this total \$658,400 is available for projects. The objective of the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant program is to support the rehabilitation of historic properties at the National, State, and local level of significance to rehabilitate, protect, and foster economic development in rural communities (less than 50,000 population). This program funds preservation projects for historic sites to include architectural/engineering services (not to exceed 20% of the grant award) and physical preservation.

The Amana Colonies Historic Revitalization subGrant program (ACHRG) will enhance our community's ability to rehabilitate at-risk structures that have the promise of improving the area's economic viability, either directly for economic purposes or indirectly by adding to the area's historic value. The primary goal of ACHRG is to identify and fund properties that are at the tipping point for rehabilitation. The ACLUD has had to approve over 5 demolition permits within the last 5 years, including structures that represented significant historic value such as an historic wagon shop, due to the owner's inability to fund stabilization and repair.

There are three economic effects from this subgrant program. (1) Rehabilitation of at-risk structures provides the opportunity to utilize them as residences or businesses, both of which will bring development to the community providing jobs for those in the building trades, particularly those with expertise in historic restoration and construction. (2) The

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economic halo effect of these buildings within the Landmark District enhances visitor experience, increasing tourism, and support service development. As a primary economic driver tourism provides year-round employment for 250 residents and summer employment for another 60. (3) Structures repaired and restored through this subgrant program will provide additional public and/or community spaces.

Eligible Applicants

- Private property owners
- Businesses
- For profit developers
- Tax exempt entities
- Public institutions

Eligible structures

The structure must have been built prior to 1932 and located within the ACLUD boundaries and be a contributing structure to the Amana Colonies National Historic Landmark or deemed eligible for listing at the National, State, or local level of significance on the National Register of Historic Places.

Property must be owned by the applicant.

Eligible Costs

Applicants may apply for funding for predevelopment and construction purposes. Projects must focus on physical preservation costs. Any predevelopment or professional services must contribute to the cost of physical construction. Predevelopment/professional services cannot exceed 20% of the total project cost.

Plans for all physical preservation work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and all projects must adhere to any additional applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, codes and ordinances including the ACLUD Design Guidelines.

This grant cannot be used retroactively for costs already incurred. Awarded project plans must be approved by the NPS before work can begin. This grant can be used for a broad range of physical preservation activities to support the rehabilitation of eligible structures.

Eligible costs include, but are not limited to the following.

Structural – Foundations, Chimneys (repair, or replacement of existing), Wood siding, Tuckpointing

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Restoration – Wood window sashes, Windows and doors, Wood steps, Wood shingles, Chimney (new), Door hoods/porches, Return gables, Gutters and downspouts

Aesthetic – Fences, Lighting, Trellises

Grant requests shall be no less than \$25,000 and no more than \$175,000. The ACLUD anticipates awarding grants to five to eight projects for a total of \$658,400. There is no match required for the ACHARG subgrants. This grant program is designed as a reimbursable opportunity. Funds may be accessed quarterly upon presentation of receipts and completion of specified activities.

Program Specific Requirements

1. Grant projects must follow OMB regulations 2 CFR 200 and the Historic Preservation Fund Manual.
2. Projects are reviewed and approved for compliance with Sections 106 (54 USC 306108) and 110f (54USC 306107) of the National Historic Preservation Act in coordination with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.
3. Projects are reviewed and approved for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
4. Projects must post signage, provided by ACLUD, to notify the public of ACLUD and National Park Service support.
5. Projects must agree to a preservation easement to be held by the State Historical Preservation Organization. The preservation easement, as outlined in the covenant, must be executed for a five-year period for grant awarded at \$50,000 and under. For grant awards over \$50,001, the preservation agreement will be for a 10-year agreement period. A preservation easement is established to ensure the historic preservation of a structure. You may obtain more information about preservation easements here - [Preservation Easements | National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) .
6. Projects involving publicly-owned buildings must be in compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
7. Projects must have a completion date no later than two years after the stated project start date. Extensions, limited to one year or less, will be considered on a case by case basis. All extensions must be requested in writing and be approved by the ACLUD Board of Trustees at least 60 days prior to the start of the extension.
8. If a grant is awarded, the Board of Trustees will approve the issuance of a Certificate of Approval for the project. This will be done concurrent with the

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award. Property owners MUST sign and return a copy of the grant agreement to receive a permit authorizing them to begin the project. A permit is required for the project.

Grant Submission and Due Date Requirements

The ACHRGR Subgrant Program will accept applications annually until all funds are disbursed.

The first round of applications closes on May 15, 2026.

Application requirements

1. A completed application form
2. Completed and signed project narrative (see relevant continuation sheets)
3. 5-10 photos illustrating need
4. Architectural drawings, engineering specifications, master plans or relevant renderings for the project.
5. Financial assurances showing the applicant has adequate resources to execute the project
6. Estimates provided within the last 60 days for proposed work. Estimates must be provided for the entirety of funded expenses. Estimates must be on company letterhead, signed, and demonstrate the entity's experience and ability to comply with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards

The rubric by which applications will be evaluated is available on the ACLUD website

A paper copy of the application materials must be completed and delivered to Amana Colonies Land Use District office at 4304 220th Trail, Amana, Iowa 52203 on or before 5 pm May 15, 2026 or mailed to ACLUD, PO Box 66 Amana, Iowa, 52203 with a postmark no later than May 15, 2026.