

Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program



Photos, top to Bottom: Historic Courthouses in Franklin, Mason, Garfield, and Spokane Counties

Background

Based on an assessment of county courthouses conducted in 2003 that identified over \$95 million in capital needs, the program is designed to assist with the rehabilitation of historic county courthouses statewide. Since 2005, nearly \$13 million from the State Capital Budget has been allocated to the Courthouse Rehabilitation Grant Program. Grants are awarded as matching funds to counties, with grant awards working to leverage nearly \$33.5 million in overall capital improvements to date. Since its inception, the program has been run through the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP).

Benefits

Based on survey information, 32 of Washington's 39 counties possess courthouses that retain levels of significance and architectural integrity deeming them eligible for designation in a variety of historic registers. The grant program works to assist counties as they endeavor to preserve these diverse and valuable landmarks while at the same time serving as a tool for local economic development.

Accomplishments

Since 2005, the program has achieved the following:

- 41 grant awards have been made to 22 counties statewide, with 51% of funds going to 10 eastern WA counties and 49% of funds going to 12 counties in western WA.
- Nearly \$13 million in grant funds have worked to leverage more than \$33.5 million in overall capital improvements, leading to a return approaching \$3 for every \$1 in contributed funding.
- Preservation of key features that define and characterize these community landmarks.

Local Economic Stimulus

- Rehabilitation projects utilizing grant funds have created hundreds of construction jobs;
- Historic rehabilitation work is more labor intensive than new construction;
- Rehabilitation supports local contractors, subcontractors, and specialty craftspeople;
- Sales tax revenues remain in-state at the local level.

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2013-2015 Biennium

The proposed Senate Capital Budget includes \$2,000,000 in funding to continue the County Courthouse Grant program. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation strongly supports this budget allocation.

HISTORIC COUNTY COURTHOUSE REHABILITATION GRANT PROGRAM

Total Funding Summary - 2005-2013

County	Number of Grants Received	Total Grant Awards ¹	Total Capital \$ ²
Clark	2	\$95,118	\$208,716
Columbia	2	\$55,632	\$100,580
Clallam	2	\$420,257	\$1,076,759
Cowlitz	1	\$82,555	\$168,409
Douglas	2	\$11,018	\$22,283
Garfield	1	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
Ferry	2	\$252,057	\$564,923
Franklin	1	\$2,719,607	\$10,200,000
King	1	\$800,000	\$650,803
Klickitat	3	\$418,000	\$892,557
Jefferson	3	\$1,250,000	\$3,900,000
Lewis	2	\$360,750	\$552,354
Mason	2	\$1,050,000	\$2,076,902
Pacific	2	\$890,370	\$1,763,150
Pend Oreille	2	\$71,500	\$113,721
San Juan	2	\$404,173	\$780,281
Skagit	1	\$600,000	\$511,052
Snohomish	2	\$222,670	\$862,588
Spokane	3	\$1,414,164	\$4,177,377
Stevens	3	\$320,303	\$649,774
Wahkiakum	1	\$40,000	\$78,556
Walla Walla	1	\$220,500	\$2,119,669
Totals:	41	\$12,698,674	\$33,470,614



Before



After

Snohomish County Courthouse
Exterior Rehabilitation

¹ Indicates original grant as awarded by Courthouse Steering Committee.

² Indicates total capital investment to courthouse leveraged using grant funds. For those projects that remain ongoing, figures are based on anticipated project totals.