



ESSEX NATIONAL
HERITAGE AREA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ESSEX HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM RESTORED
Announces 2010 Program Guidelines

January 19, 2010 (Salem, MA) . . . Essex Heritage (The Essex National Heritage Commission), in its tradition of celebrating our region's unique cultural heritage, announced today that it will once again offer matching seed grants to Essex County organizations through its popular Partnership Grant Program. Suspended in 2009 due to budget constraints, the organization is fulfilling a strategic priority by providing financial assistance to those organizations that steward the region's nationally significant heritage. Essex Heritage is currently accepting on-line proposals from municipalities and qualified nonprofit organizations for projects and activities that support Essex Heritage's mission to preserve and promote the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the Essex National Heritage Area.

\$2,500 grants will be provided to ten qualified applicants whose projects:

- Create or further develop educational opportunities for youth
- Increase awareness and understanding of the region's heritage
- Preserve and enhance historic structures, landscapes and cultural resources

Detailed information about the Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program, including guidelines, criteria, deadlines, FAQs and application materials, are available online at

www.essexheritage.org. Review of the guidelines is highly recommended as significant changes are being implemented with this year's program, including the online only application process and pre-set grant amount.

The Essex National Heritage Commission's Partnership Grant Program is a matching grant program created to foster collaboration between organizations that share the Commission's mission to preserve and promote the historic, cultural and natural resources of the Essex National Heritage Area, said Essex Heritage Executive Director, Annie C. Harris.

Impacting many in the region, the 12-year old program has provided more than \$1,600,000 to municipalities and nonprofit heritage organizations that steward the region's resources through heritage education, interpretative programming, historic preservation, community trails, and historical records," added Ms. Harris.

For additional information, please visit: EssexHeritage.org

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About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage

Designated by the US Congress in recognition of the important role that this region played in American history and its significant heritage sites still remaining, the Essex National Heritage Area is comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County, MA. Essex Heritage is a non profit agency that manages the Heritage Area, and works in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public/private partnerships, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the Area's unique historic, cultural and natural resources. For more information, visit Essex Heritage at www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.

About Essex Heritage Partnership Grant Program

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) Partnership Grant Program is a matching grant program created to foster collaboration between organizations that share the ENHC's mission to preserve and promote the historic, cultural and natural resources in the region. Since its creation in 1998, the program has awarded more than \$1.6 million to over 300 projects in all 34 Essex National Heritage Area communities.