Overview: Capital Grant Programs
2023-25 Biennium

Summary:
Funding for the following four programs is included in the Governor’s proposed 2023-25 capital budget. The courthouse, barn, cemetery and theater programs are well established and administered through the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. All are key programs supporting economic development and preservation of important historic buildings, focusing on resources located primarily in rural areas and historic downtown commercial cores.

Historic County Courthouse Grant Program: $4,761M
- Since 2005, 69 grant awards have been made to 26 counties statewide.
- Nearly $21 million in grant funds have worked to leverage more than $53.5 million in overall capital improvements.
- Full funding in the 2023-25 biennium would support rehabilitation projects in the following counties: Stevens, Yakima, Klickitat, Lewis, Okanogan, Douglas, Grant, Grays Harbor, San Juan, Snohomish.
- Included in the Governor’s proposed capital budget at $2.287 million (to fund the first 5 county courthouses listed above), The Washington Trust supports full funding for all 10 projects.

Heritage Barn Grant Program: $1,000,000
- Since 2007, over $3.63M in funds have been awarded to 156 barns statewide.
- Grants for barn rehabilitation have supported over 600 construction jobs.
- Barns receiving grants are located on farms with nearly 65,000 acres under active agricultural use.

Historic Cemetery Grant Program: $515,000
- Since 2017, over $1.2M has been awarded to 53 historic cemeteries statewide.
- Work focuses on preservation and restoration of key cemetery features, along with interpretive elements providing historical information.

Historic Theater Grant Program: $515,000
- A 2008 survey of over 80 historic theaters determined nearly $38M in capital needs ($46M in 2020 dollars when adjusted for inflation).
- In the inaugural funding cycle in 2021, over $280K has been awarded to 8 historic theaters statewide.
- Nearly 70% of historic theaters are located in rural jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000.

2023-2025 Biennium
The Governor’s proposed Capital Budget includes funding for all programs at the amounts noted above. The Washington Trust strongly supports these funding proposals.

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