

**FY 2026**

**Missouri  
Local Records Grant  
Program**



**Guidebook**

Project Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

**Missouri**  

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**Secretary of State's Office**

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# Contact and Resource Information

## Contact information:

Local Records - Grant Administrator  
Local Records Grant Program  
600 W. Main  
PO Box 1747  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1747  
Phone: 573.751.9047 (Local Records Main Line)  
Email: [local.records@sos.mo.gov](mailto:local.records@sos.mo.gov)

## Resources:

Local Records - Grant Program  
[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/grants/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/grants/)

Local Records - Retention Schedules  
[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/schedules/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/schedules/)

Guidelines for Microfilming Public Records  
[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/pubs/mfmfg/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/pubs/mfmfg/)

Preservation Concerns in Planning a Records Center  
[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/conservation/concerns.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/conservation/concerns.asp)

Local Records Vendor List  
[http://s1.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/LocalRecords/Vendors\\_Information.pdf](http://s1.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/LocalRecords/Vendors_Information.pdf)

Missouri Cooperative Procurement Program  
<https://oa.mo.gov/purchasing/cooperative-procurement-services>

Phone: 573.751.4169  
Fax: 573-526-9815  
Mail: PO Box 809  
301 W. High St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Vendor Input/ACH-EFT Application  
[https://oa.mo.gov/sites/default/files/vendor\\_input\\_ach\\_eftd.pdf](https://oa.mo.gov/sites/default/files/vendor_input_ach_eftd.pdf)

# FY 2026 Grant Program Timeline

November 15, 2024-January 15, 2025: Draft application review available from Local Records Office Staff [Field Archivists may review applications after the later date, if scheduling allows]

March 1: Application deadline; postmark or delivery date. This must be sent directly to the Local Records Contact listed on page 3, above

May/June 2025: Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board meets to review grant applications

3 to 6 weeks after grant review session: Secretary of State distributes packets containing:

- Award letters and grant agreement forms
- Non-Award letters to un-awarded applicants

July 1, 2025: FY26 Grant Period begins [DO NOT start grant work until you receive notice to proceed]

January 15, 2026: Interim Report due [or Final Report in lieu of Interim Report]

May 31: Final Report due

June 30: closing date for the FY26 grant cycle

- Final Reports processed in order received
- Final grant payments disbursed

FY27 cycle begins with grant draft reviews in November 2025

## Grant Administration

### General Information

The Grant Program's *Administrative Rule* (Title 15, Division 30, Chapter 45, Section 030 et seq.) provides the operational basis for the Local Records Grant Program.

### Statutory Obligations

Application for and acceptance of grant project funds administered by the Office of the Secretary of State, Local Records Program, obligates the grant recipient to comply with:

- ◆ RSMo 109 (Public and Business Records)
- ◆ RSMo 610 (Open Meeting and Records)
- ◆ RSMo 34 and 50 (as applicable for purchasing procedures)
- ◆ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

## Application Preparation Tips

### Getting Oriented

**READ this Guidebook** to become familiar with the program.

- ◆ Determine if your agency, institution or organization and your proposed project are eligible.
- ◆ Understand what the responsibilities of all individuals involved in the project will be if awarded a grant.
- ◆ **Consult with your local field archivist about project options during the planning stages and before drafting your application.**
- ◆ Objectively evaluate your available resources. Develop a realistic estimate of the funds, staffing and time needed to undertake and complete the project within the grant cycle timeframe. In particular, if you propose to undertake an imaging project for the first time, choose a relatively small record series, or portion of a series, to improve your likelihood of success.

**NOTE:** The best project proposals are focused, achievable and part of a long-term records management plan.

### Getting Started

The Guidebook and Application are revised for each grant cycle; you must use the correct fiscal year version.

- ◆ Determine realistic costs; do not underestimate the level of staffing and time commitment required. Gather bids and/or conduct trial runs of project components to get these estimates. However, costs change and projects often take longer than you anticipate. Many grantees find that the project requires more time than had been estimated.

## **Project Specific Support Materials**

Additional support material should be arranged in the following order when appropriate:

### **“Records to be Imaged” Form**

Imaging project applications must include one Records to be Imaged Form for each record series to be imaged. The record series is based on the relevant listing in the Local Records Retention Schedules [<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/schedules>]. If awarded, this form establishes the contracted basis of your project. Any deviation from this record information as awarded will require formal amendment to the contract.

### **“Reader/Printer/Scanner” Form**

Information on the *Reader/Printer or Scanner Request Form* can assist you in selecting appropriate equipment. This is for accessing microfilm/microfiche. This form is not necessary for the acquisition of original capture scanning equipment.

Provide support documentation for reimbursement by attaching copies of brochures, vendor catalog pages, specification sheets, vendor estimates, consultant information, or other materials that will identify the supplies, services, equipment, etc. If more than one item is printed on the page, please indicate the desired commodity.

### **Floor Plans**

Floor plans are required for shelving or renovation projects. These plans do not have to be to scale, but should show the storage area dimensions. Show the placement of shelving, equipment, furnishings and any significant architectural features.

### **Other**

Relevant supplemental information/materials may be added to support your proposal. These may include sample forms, letters of support, photographs, and/or descriptions of items or services that are part of the project and have not been noted or illustrated elsewhere in the application.

### **Electronic Fund Transfer**

Complete the *Electronic Fund Transfer Form* to establish the bank direct deposit option, to change an existing account or create an EFT account with the State.

## Program Description and Guidelines

### FY26 grant cycle

- Grant awards are capped at \$20,000
  - Note: grant awards are maximum awards for the given project. Grant awards cannot be increased if the project cost was underestimated.
- No local match is required

### Introduction

The Missouri Local Records Grant Program, since 1991, has provided over \$8,100,000 to support local public records management and preservation efforts. Grants are funded through fees collected by Missouri County Recorders for the management and preservation of local government records. In this competitive grant program, the number of grant applications submitted and the level of grant funding requested routinely exceeds the total amount available.

The Secretary of State awards grants in consideration of the advice and recommendation of the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB). Official award status occurs with the notification of award and the execution of a grant agreement form. The grant program operates within the state fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. All final project reports must be submitted and approved by May 31 and the projects must be closed no later than the end of the state fiscal year, June 30.

General information about the grant program, all required forms and an electronic version of the grant application is available at the Secretary of State website:

[www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/grants/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/grants/)

### Staff Assistance

**Retain this *Guidebook and Application* for your reference and use throughout the grant award.** This publication will provide answers to many questions that may arise as you implement your project.

Field Archivists can assist in adjusting the scope and nature of projects to ensure proposed projects are eligible. Contact Local Records (573.751.9047 or [local.records@sos.mo.gov](mailto:local.records@sos.mo.gov)) to request a consultation with the field archivist for your region. A field archivist is assigned to each project prior to its commencement and is available throughout the project for consultation with the grantee.

## Eligible Applicants

*Include, but are not limited to:*

<b>Local Government</b>	
	County Offices (see below for Circuit Clerks)
	Municipalities
	School Districts
	Political subdivisions with taxing authority (Fire Districts; Library Districts; etc.)
	Circuit Clerks have limited eligibility. Permanent books are eligible for imaging grants, as are reader/printer/scanners, shelving, and planning grants
<b>Non-Profits</b>	Historical Societies/Genealogical Societies or other non-profits that <b>hold</b> public records may benefit from grants. However, the government office from which the records originated <b>must</b> be the applicant
<b>Other</b>	Records originating from an eligible entity as well as any locally significant materials or other records that have been donated to and owned by an eligible public entity may qualify for project funding
<b>Emergency Grants</b>	In the case of significant disaster, emergency grants for records preservation may be available—contact Local Records for more information.

## Eligible Projects

Examples of the types of records management and/or preservation projects that qualify for consideration include, but are not limited to:

<b>Records Management Planning/Professional Consultant</b>
<b>Electronic preservation</b>
<b>Imaging, for permanent records older than 5 years.</b>
<b>Essential equipment related to records management, storage, access, or preservation. (Shelving, reader/printer/scanners, etc.)</b>
<b>Conservation of unique and/or historically significant original records</b>



**Eligible Budget Categories**

*Include, but are not limited to:*

<b>Supplies</b>	General office/archival supplies for a specific preservation project. <u>Consumables for file storage are generally not eligible.</u>
<b>Travel</b>	Related directly to project (i.e., transporting records to vendor for imaging)
<b>Commercial vendor services</b>	Imaging
	Conservation
<b>Storage Furniture</b>	Standard steel shelving
	Compact/mobile shelving
	Storage cabinets—oversized flat files, blueprint/building plan storage. Very limited support for office-style file cabinets
<b>Essential Equipment</b>	Reader/printer/scanners—for reader/printer/scanner requests, include a <a href="#">Reader Printer Request Form</a>
	Humidifiers/dehumidifiers, environmental monitors, etc.
<b>Other services/commodities</b>	Expenditures that are pertinent and necessary to the project.
<b>Software</b> (including software as a service)	For Electronic Records Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enterprise content management (ECM) systems</li> <li>○ Records request tracking</li> <li>○ Redaction</li> <li>○ Other</li> </ul>
<b>Hardware</b>	For Electronic Records Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May include scanners</li> <li>○ Scanners will only be authorized if part of a new ECM solution. Note: if a grantee is awarded a grant for an ECM solution and does not implement the software, any associated hardware purchase will <u>not</u> be reimbursed.</li> </ul>

**Ineligible Applicants**

*Include, but are not limited to:*

<b>Federal Agencies</b>
<b>State Agencies</b>
<b>Private Individuals</b>

**Ineligible Projects and Budget items**

*Include, but are not limited to:*

<b>Projects completed prior to grant award</b>	
<b>On-going costs</b>	Subscriptions, licenses, fees, maintenance contracts [first year expenses as part of implementation are exempt from this restriction]
<b>Expenses incurred prior to receiving notice to proceed</b>	
<b>Expenses incurred after end of grant period</b>	An extension may be granted at the discretion of the administrators—however, grantee must notify Local Records at the earliest possible date that an extension may be needed
<b>Equipment nonessential to the grant project</b>	
<b>Capital improvements to buildings</b>	No new construction or additions
<b>Building/property acquisition</b>	

<b>Payment to lobbyists</b>	
<b>Hospitality expenses</b>	
<b>Prizes/awards</b>	
<b>Benefit activities</b>	Socials, fundraisers, etc.
<b>Educational programs not available to the public</b>	
<b>Tuition reimbursement</b>	
<b>Activities having a religious purpose</b>	
<b>Inventories, finding aids, or guides not available to the public</b>	
<b>Purchase of manuscripts or records</b>	

## Grant Funding

Grant funds are capped at **\$20,000** per project. Only one project per city, school, or other local government subdivision will be considered. County offices: Clerk, Collector, Recorder, etc. are considered individual entities and applications from multiple elected officials from a county will receive consideration.

## Matching Funds

No match is required for FY26 Local Records Grants.

## Application Review and Award Process

Applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with their local field archivist during the formulation of the project and application.

Local Records staff will advise on all grant projects from their development through the completion of the application. Additionally, the Grant Administrator can review draft applications mid-November through mid-January, and offer suggestions to guide development of the application. **The Grant Administrator WILL NOT review drafts received after January 15.** Any drafts received after that date are treated as the official application. **Your local field archivist may be able to provide advice between January 15 and the March 1 due date—depending on scheduling availability. Submission to a field archivist does not constitute an application to the grant program.**

The grant application process is competitive. Although grant funds are limited, every effort is made to provide some level of funding to all qualified projects.

Projects that meet the criteria of the grant program, are well conceived, fully described and adequately supported, in a correctly completed application form arranged in the proper order, will receive the most favorable review.

The Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB) reviews applications in late spring and makes their award recommendations to the Secretary of State. Projects may be awarded in full, partially funded, or denied funding. The grant award is the final maximum award for a given project. A partially funded grant is not an indication that the grant is faulty; rather it reflects the reality of the limited funds. Grants receiving no funding are either ineligible or contain significant flaws (typically in the budget explanation).

*Note: Grant award decisions are final; however, denied applicants are encouraged to consult with Local Records staff to develop revised submissions for subsequent grant cycles.*

Award letters and agreement forms are mailed or emailed to the awarded applicants. You must sign and return the **Grant Agreement**. You will then receive a **Notice to Proceed**, signifying that grant work may begin. The date of the **Notice to Proceed** will be the start date for your grant award. It signifies that the **Grant Agreement** has been signed, returned to Local Records and countersigned by the Secretary of State or designee. Grantees may not use grant funds to pay expenses incurred prior to the official start of the grant period or incurred after the conclusion of the grant period.

<b>Process to begin grants</b>	
1	MHRAB review meeting
2	Local Records generates and distributes Grant Agreement
3	Applicant signs agreement and returns it to Local Records—this shows you have accepted the grant award
4	Secretary of State, or designee, and Local Records Director sign agreement
5	Notice to Proceed—will be emailed—this is the start date of your grant. Do not begin work until you receive the Notice to Proceed.

### Grant Payments

Grant payments to awarded projects are made on a reimbursement basis. Grantees must submit invoices for goods or services before grant funds will be disbursed. For imaging grants, the vendor must submit images to Local Records for preservation microfilming prior to any reimbursement.

Only budget items specified in the grant application are eligible for reimbursement.

### Requirements

#### Application drafts and final submission

Draft application may be submitted to Local Records for review/comment between November 15 and January 15. After January 15 your local field archivist may be available to review your application, if schedules permit.

Applications may be mailed or emailed to the contact address on page 3, above. Clearly indicate on the envelope/in the subject line of the email whether you are submitting a draft for review or final application.

#### Reimbursement

To receive reimbursement, the grantee must register as a vendor with the State of Missouri. **If your office/county/city receives payments from state government, you have a Vendor ID Number in the state accounting system--SAM II.** Do not substitute a Missouri Buys or other ID number for your Vendor ID Number.

All reimbursements are made through Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs). You must fill out and submit the State of Missouri **Vendor Input/ACH-EFT Application, if you do not already have an account with the state**. This must be faxed to 573.526.9823, or mailed to: Office of Administration–Accounting, PO Box 809, Jefferson City, MO 65102. A copy of the form must be attached to the grant application.

The first reimbursement to grantees can be made following receipt of the Notice to Proceed, with proper documentation indicating that no reimbursable expenses were incurred prior to the start of the grant period. Final reimbursement must be requested by May 31, 2026. All necessary supporting documentation is required prior to any payment. If project delays will prevent a grantee from requesting final reimbursement by the deadline, they must notify the grant administrator as soon as possible.

### **Project Bids and Expenditures**

Services, equipment and other project costs exceeding \$10,000 require bids (depending on local rules, you may be required bid lower amounts). You must have some basis for your grant request, so consulting with vendors is necessary for the completion of the application. Applicants are not required to seek formal bids during the application period, that process must be followed after the grant is awarded. All bid documentation collected before and after project approval must be retained. **Documentation of bid solicitation should be submitted prior to or along with the Final Report if documentation was not included with the grant application.**

### **Accounting and Auditing Requirements**

Grantees must maintain financial records in accordance with agreed upon accounting practices and Grantees must comply with the audit requirements set forth in Missouri statutes for local government units. These records are subject to inspection by Secretary of State staff during regular business hours throughout the grant period and for the time period allowed by the General Retention Schedule, GS 040 Grant Records.

If any litigation, claim, or audit is begun before the end of three (3) years, the records must be retained until such proceeding is resolved. Should any adverse finding occur, a copy of the audit, finding, and a report on final resolution must be forwarded to Local Records.

### **Project Progress Reports**

The Local Records Grant Program requires completion of both the narrative and financial components of the Interim and/or Final Report during the project period; each of these report components provides an outline of project progress:

- ◆ Only expenditures incurred within the inclusive dates of the awarded grant cycle and in the approved budget categories may be claimed.
- ◆ The application budget summary is based on approximated figures; however, the actual expenditure amounts must be used to complete the Final Financial Report. [Note: grant awards may be adjusted to reflect the cost estimated in the application. The full project as outlined in the grant agreement must be completed regardless of level of funding, with any overage coming from the grantee.]

- ◆ The narrative is a summary of work accomplished on the grant, there is no official form for the narrative report.

The *Interim Report* is due on or before **January 15, 2026**. A Final Report may be submitted in lieu of the Interim Report if the project is completed by the Interim Report date.

The *Final Report* and payment request are due on or before **May 31, 2026**. The final report should consist of the narrative report, photos of equipment (if receiving shelving, reader/printer/scanner, etc.) final financial report and all invoices. Grantees may submit their final report as soon as the project is complete, in any case, early submission of the Final Report is highly encouraged to avoid delay in reimbursements.

## Project Changes

The Grant Administrator **MUST** receive a written request and approve of any change to the project prior to implementation of the desired change. Changes to the grant budget submitted on a *Request to Revise Budget Form* include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ **Any change to contact information**: agency address, telephone or fax numbers, or project personnel email address as well as pertinent personnel changes such as authorized official, project contact person or other project staff carrying out specific project assignments.
- ◆ Changes to project such as altered inclusive dates as well as added or deleted record series from microfilming projects; modification of the awarded project's scope; added/deleted project components or activities.
- ◆ Budget revisions, which are permitted only with official approval from Local Records, provided:
  - the original total grant award amount is not exceeded.
  - a written request is submitted on a [Request to Revise Budget Form](#), and includes:
    - ✓ the reason/need for the revision.
    - ✓ the total dollar amount of funds to be reallocated.
- ◆ For imaging projects, changes must be documented on a new [Records to be Imaged Form](#) and be accompanied by an explanation for the change, in addition to a [Request to Revise Budget Form](#). Requests to alter the scope of a project (i.e., to reduce the quantity of records imaged) may be rejected.
- ◆ NOTE: DO NOT combine grant project activities with other preservation/records management activities (i.e., imaging projects—having a grant to image a specific group of records and then paying for additional records on your own. This should be two projects and two contracts with vendors). Grant products must be readily identifiable and not intermixed with other, similar products (i.e., microfilm).

## Project Extension

As a general rule: No extensions will be granted. In exceptional cases, an extension may be considered.

## Withdrawal of Awarded Grant Funds

Grant recipients can voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time.

**Default**

Failure to conform to the *following criteria can put a grantee in default status*:

- ◆ Adherence to the project parameters as awarded or amended and agreed upon.
- ◆ Follow the programmatic, fiscal or reporting requirements of the grant program as described in this *Guidebook and Application*.

Default status will result in the grantee being deemed ineligible for future Local Records grants.



## Imaging Projects

### Eligible Records

Not all records are eligible for grant-funded imaging. Only permanent, long-term, or historically significant records are eligible for funding. The Missouri Secretary of State's Office develops and provides record retention schedules for most local government entities. These schedules include basic information on records management, a glossary of terms, and a schedule of retention periods for the standard records of specific offices. You must review **both the General Schedule and the appropriate agency retention manual(s)** to identify your records eligibility for imaging. Retention manuals are available electronically at the Secretary of State's web site: [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrec/schedules/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrec/schedules/).

***Records must be over 5 years old to be eligible for an imaging grant, unless they receive special approval by the MHRAB.*** Records less than 5 years old are considered active records. Exceptions to the 5 year-rule are provided for extenuating circumstances, such as mold problems or arrangement of records. Be sure to explain any such circumstances in the application.

Imaging projects are awarded for specified, eligible record series. ***Any changes, additions or deletions to the record series must be requested in writing and approved by the Local Records Grant Administrator prior to imaging.***

***A Request to Revise Project Form must be submitted*** with an updated *Records to be Imaged* Form completed for each added or changed series.

### Imaging Grant Requirements

- Grantee must consult with their field archivist to develop plan to prepare records for imaging.
- Grantee is expected to prepare records for imaging (arrangement, staple removal, etc.). Document preparation is ineligible for grant funding.
- Grantee must create title targets for each individual book, or box targets for boxes of loose records that include: County, Office/Subdivision, Record Series title, Subtitle (if applicable), Date/Year range for volume or box; Arrangement (chronological, alphabetical, etc.)—Field Archivists can assist in the creation of targets
- Grantee must contact their field archivist to do a final check before project is sent to vendor.
- Final bids/invoices must be itemized by service contracted (capture, indexing, editing, masking, document preparation, etc.). These services need to be defined (i.e., what was actually being done).
- Grants costs are not eligible for reimbursement until Local Records has received and approved the digital images.

## Imaging Project Deliverables

- ◆ An imaging grant will cover production of:
  - Digital images on portable hard drives or other media, formatted according to instructions provided below (also available on the grant webpage: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/grants>). The grantee will receive digital images and Local Records will receive a copy of the images, from which 16mm or 35mm preservation microfilm will be generated.

One page per Image is the standard format. Multiple pages per image require justification and advance approval from Local Records. For example, exceptions may be allowed when filming indexes in which the data runs across two pages in ledger format or aperture cards that include more than one embedded image per card.

Imaging grants will cover the cost of image capture. Grants will not cover:

- specialized editing such as: image masking or indexing
  - document prep (arrangement of records, staple removal, etc.)
  - creation of title targets (this is the responsibility of the grantee; Local Records can assist with target generation)
- ◆ Applicant must contract with the imaging vendor to submit images to Local Records in the following format:

Vendors are required to submit images to Local Records in the following format, for each roll of film to be produced—single page TIFF (no multi-TIFF), grayscale or bi-tonal (grayscale preferred). One image per frame, unless original crosses two pages (i.e., tax record book).

Include an invoice/packing list listing the Local Records Grant Number, County (City, if applicable), and record series. Also, provide a listing of records included on the hard drive.

Create folders of images by volume, or box, containing required targets and images. Folders should be named according to record series/volume/year that are included in the folder.

Required targets:

1. Title/Box target for each new volume/box (provided by grantee)
2. Blank Pages Not Scanned Target (if applicable, this should indicate page numbers of blank page(s) not imaged, used for microfilm generation to show completeness of record)
3. Poor Quality Statement Target (if applicable)

4. Additional Bibliographic Targets (if applicable)
5. New File Begins (if applicable—for instance if file folders are not being imaged in a loose paper project)

A link to these [vendor instructions](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localreecs/grants) is available on the Local Records Grant webpage:  
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localreecs/grants>

#### **Aperture Card Conversion Projects**

- ◆ For aperture conversion projects, the grant will cover standard imaging products as outlined above.