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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **Grants awarded to local governments for historic preservation projects**

*Funds will help communities that place a priority on local history*

*SPRINGFIELD* – Charleston, Chicago, Crystal Lake, Glen Ellyn, Joliet, Rockford, Oak Park, Rock Island, Urbana and Will County have been selected to receive Certified Local Government grants from federal funds made available through the state for local historic preservation projects.

“Historic preservation begins at the grassroots level, in local communities which have made their heritage a top priority,” said Jan Grimes, director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which administers the grant program on behalf of the federal government. “These grant funds will help preserve that heritage as well as improve the quality of life for current and future generations.”

Communities that have achieved Certified Local Government status under the National Historic Preservation Act were encouraged to apply for \$91,297 in grant funds that are available this fiscal year through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). These federal funds are specifically earmarked for local grants in the areas of public preservation and development.

The federal grant funds administered by IHPA were awarded on a matching basis, with the federal funds paying for up to 70 percent of the project cost and local funds making up the remainder. The projects must relate to historic preservation and could include planning, public education workshops and heritage publications, National Register of Historic Places property listings, and development. Only Certified Local Governments may apply for the grants. Those communities that have achieved this status are listed at [www.Illinois-History.gov/ps/clgs.pdf](http://www.Illinois-History.gov/ps/clgs.pdf).

**CHARLESTON: \$6,868.** The Charleston Historic Preservation commission will develop an education brochure highlighting historic preservation opportunities in the city. The brochure will serve as an introduction to the city’s new preservation program.

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**CHICAGO: \$7,000.** The Commission on Chicago Landmarks will update and print the “Chicago Landmarks Map” brochure. The map works in tandem with the city’s website in educating the public about the important history and architecture of Chicago.

**CRYSTAL LAKE: \$3,103.** The Preservation Commission will reprint the “Historic Downtown Crystal Lake Self-Guided Walking Tour” brochure.

**GLEN ELLYN: \$14,000.** The grant will assist the Village in its ongoing survey project to identify potential landmarks and historic district. The data collected will also be incorporated into the overall comprehensive planning for Glen Ellyn.

**JOLIET: \$2,800.** The Preservation Commission will research and prepare a National Register thematic nomination for Joliet limestone structures. This locally significant building material is a dominant feature in the region and in its namesake community in particular.

**ROCKFORD: \$14,000.** The City will use the grant to do an environmental assessment of the former Rockford Armory, a National Register listed property. The report is a key part of the city’s overall marketing strategy for the building.

**OAK PARK: \$21,000.** The Village will develop a comprehensive and strategic historic preservation plan. The plan will guide the community’s approach to preserving its historic character.

**ROCK ISLAND: \$14,000.** A feasibility study will undertake an adaptive re-use of the former Lincoln School. The goal is to convert the building to artists/lofts.

**URBANA: \$4,256.** The Urbana Preservation Commission will sponsor a workshop on rehabilitating historic building. Participants will learn rehabbing techniques, as well as participate in removing the artificial siding from a local landmark house.

**WILL COUNTY: \$4,200.** The grant will be used for two educational projects. A graphic display will be created highlighting the historic resources of the County. And, a workshop will be held on historic landscapes, including gardens, archaeological sites, and cemeteries.

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