

# NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP REHABILITATION CREDIT PROGRAM

## Incentives for Owners of Historic Homes

If you are the owner of a house that is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places individually or as a contributing to a listed/certified historic district AND it is located in a qualifying census tract, you may be eligible for a state historic tax credit equal to 20% of the repair costs

### PROGRAM QUALIFICATIONS:

- You must own and live in the house.
- The house must be listed in the State Register of Historic Places (individually or contributing to a district).
- The house must be located in a qualifying census tract (QCT).
- The total costs must exceed \$5,000 and you must spend at least 5% on exterior work.
- All the work must be approved by the Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) before you begin.



Buffalo

### QUALIFIED EXPENSES:

Exterior and interior work is eligible and you can undertake a variety of repairs and/or replacements as long as the work does not significantly change your house's overall historic appearance, including but not limited to:

- Structural systems, including foundations, floor joists and ceiling and attic rafters.
- Roofs, including roof coverings, rafters, fascia, soffits, gutters and downspouts.
- Interior work, including floors, walls, stairs, ceilings and trim around windows and doors.
- Utility systems, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems as well as fire safety and permanently installed security systems.
- Windows and doors, including glass, frames, shutters, hardware and storm windows.
- Exterior walls, cornices, porches and foundations, including siding, dormers, brackets, columns, railings, stairs, window and door trim, concrete or masonry walls and chimneys.
- Weatherproofing, including caulking, weather-stripping and some insulation upgrades.

***Please note that the credit does not apply to work outside the footprint of the house, such as new additions, landscaping, driveways, fencing, or detached garages.***



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **If I want to apply for the credit, what should I do?**

For more information, the application, or to find out if your house is eligible, please visit <https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/> or call 518-268-2213 to speak to the DHP staff member who covers your municipality.

## **Can I make my house more energy efficient?**

Yes. As long as the work does not alter the house's overall historic appearance. High efficient heating systems, solar installation, insulation, and other weatherization projects may be eligible expenses. Please note that existing wood windows can be made more energy efficient with proper repair, including the installation of weather stripping and interior or exterior storm windows, which are additionally eligible expenses.

## **Can I replace my windows?**

Window replacement is an eligible expense if the existing windows are not historic or cannot be repaired due to severe deterioration. You must provide photographs of the windows to show their condition and the proposed replacements must be approved by the division. Vinyl or vinyl clad windows are generally not acceptable. If you are approved for replacements, staff will request the product information for the proposed windows.

## **Can I install vinyl siding on my house?**

Replacing repairable historic material is never recommended; however, if the historic material cannot be repaired because of the extent of the damage, we recommend that the material is replaced in-kind. The use of modern materials over existing wood or masonry may lead to future moisture damage to the structure and will diminish the historic appearance of the building.

## **Can I use the credit if I have a rental unit in my house?**

Yes. Generally, only the work associated with the homeowner-occupied portion of the house is eligible. There is a formula to include repairs of the property to areas of the home that are shared with your tenants. Please contact your DHP representative for more information. Additionally, your house may be eligible for historic preservation tax incentives for commercial properties.

## **When can I take the tax credit?**

This historic tax credit is taken in the year that the owner receives a Certification of Completion from the Division for Historic Preservation; the certificate is issued when work is completed and Part 3 of the tax credit application is submitted and approved.

## **What if I am unable to use all/any of the credit?**

Excess credit can be carried over to subsequent years until it is used.

## **Can I pass the credit on to a new buyer?**

Yes. If you receive certification for the completed work, or approval of Part 3 of the application, and want to pass the entire credit on to the first purchaser, you may. The buyer needs to live in the house, and needs to claim the credit within five years of certification. This can be useful if you are selling the house or for an organization that does not pay taxes to rehabilitate historic buildings and improve neighborhoods.