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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1189
Norris, TN 37828

Website:
museumofappalachia.org

Contact:
865-494-7680
[museum@
museumofappalachia.org](mailto:museum@museumofappalachia.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2026

Museum of Appalachia Awarded a Capital Maintenance and Improvements Grant from the Tennessee State Museum

Grant Supported Electrical Infrastructure Improvements Throughout the Pioneer Village

NORRIS, Tenn. — The Museum of Appalachia received a \$55,000 Capital Maintenance and Improvements grant from the State of Tennessee, administered through the Tennessee State Museum, to modernize the electrical infrastructure throughout its Pioneer Village. Reliable power is essential to nearly every aspect of the Museum's work, from daily operations and caring for historic buildings to hosting demonstrations, educational programs and special events. The work has replaced aging infrastructure and expanded underground electrical service across much of the Pioneer Village.

The Tennessee General Assembly made available \$5 million in funding from the 2025-2026 Appropriations Act, "for the sole purpose of providing grants to museums with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or affiliated with a governmental entity for capital maintenance and improvements."

In the third year of the grant program, it remains a highly competitive process. In total, the Tennessee State Museum received 178 applications, totaling \$12,031,874 in requests. The Museum has made full or partial awards to 99 museums across the state, representing 45 counties. In the three years the Museum has administered the grant program, it has served museums in 73 counties across the state. A complete list of 2025-26 grantees, counties and amounts is posted at tnmuseum.org/grants.

"The Tennessee Capital Improvement Grants continue to support and strengthen the infrastructure of institutions preserving our state and local history and culture," said Ashley Howell, Tennessee State Museum Executive Director. "We are honored to help support the commitment of those institutions to better serve their communities and visitors through collection care and visitor accessibility these last three years. We are inspired by the dedication of their staff and volunteers. None of it would be possible, of course, without the State of Tennessee's unwavering support for Tennessee history."

This project is supported in part by the Tennessee State Museum and the state of Tennessee

"This project addressed one of the Museum's most significant infrastructure needs," said Lindsey Gallaher, president of the Museum of Appalachia. "Reliable power is essential to our daily operations and to the demonstrations and events held throughout the Pioneer Village. These improvements make the system safer and more dependable and better equip us to serve visitors and care for the Museum's historic buildings."



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About the Museum of Appalachia

Founded in 1969 by John Rice Irwin, the Museum of Appalachia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Smithsonian Affiliate dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of Southern Appalachia. The Museum portrays an authentic mountain farm and pioneer village with some three dozen historic log structures and three exhibit buildings filled with thousands of authentic Appalachian artifacts. The Museum is open daily for self-guided tours and offers group tours, school tours and educational programs. For more information, visit museumofappalachia.org.

About Tennessee State Museum

The Tennessee State Museum, located on the corner of Rosa L Parks Blvd. and Jefferson Street at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, is your home to thousands of years of Tennessee history, art, and culture. Through six permanent exhibitions titled Natural History, First Peoples, Forging a Nation, The Civil War and Reconstruction, Change and Challenge and Tennessee Transforms, the Museum takes visitors on a journey—through artifacts, films, interactive displays, events and educational and digital programming—from the state's geological beginnings to the present day.

Additional temporary exhibitions explore significant periods and individuals in history, along with art and cultural movements. The Museum is free and open to the public Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information on exhibitions and events, please visit tnmuseum.org.