



# UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY

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Dear lighthouse colleagues and friends,

Although our nation has made much progress in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and we can now all start to see the guiding light of a Fresnel lens at the end of the pandemic “tunnel”, it will still be several months before lighthouse visitation picks up to near-normal levels and for some organizations that may not happen until the 2022 season. Our Board of Directors has therefore unanimously agreed to once again defer our normal cycle of grants that are for hands-on lighthouse *preservation* and to instead offer our support and assistance with \$1,000 grants to help with your *operations* during another tough year.

Eligibility for the grant consists simply of being a current non-profit 501(c)(3) organization responsible for preservation, care and public visitation of a historic lighthouse in the United States, including its territories, etc. If you received a grant from us in 2020, you are eligible to apply again this year, but we may use your prior award as a factor in our selection process.

To apply, simply write us a short letter on your letterhead and provide the following information:

- The intended use of the \$1,000 grant; be as specific as you can at this time – for example, it will go towards salaries of employees in the gift shop, or maintenance employees; or it will go towards our utility bills, etc.
- The length of your normal (pre-pandemic) visitation season and normal number of visitors; the length of your shortened visitation season and number of visitors in 2020; and your current plans and conditions for opening in the 2021 season.

The letter should be signed by the organization’s Executive Director, President or other Board Officer and be sent to [Grantsprogram@uslhs.org](mailto:Grantsprogram@uslhs.org). The deadline for receipt of your letters is February 26<sup>th</sup>. Our plan is to announce the awardees by the middle of March.

The only thing we ask in return is that you keep us posted on how you are doing later this year and, to the extent that it fits in with your operations, publicize our small role in helping you out. Perhaps a note in your organization’s newsletter? And email us some pictures of smiling staff and volunteers at work!

In closing, our Society recently embarked on the development of a new strategic plan to help guide our activities for the next several years. The fact that we have a new President and three new members on our Board of Directors is bringing fresh ideas and directions to our discussions. One theme that is emerging so far is that we want to be of greater service to the broader national lighthouse community, including individual lighthouse organizations; these \$1,000 grants are in line with that direction. As we continue our strategic planning process, we will probably be reaching out to some of you in the weeks ahead to have a dialogue and get your inputs.

Jeff Gales  
Executive Director

Henry Gonzalez  
Chair, Preservation Grants Committee  
& Vice President