

### **Public funding for Seminary Ridge Museum**

*When the Bible uses the word slave, does it justify slavery? How did Lutherans answer that question before the Civil War? Why are there Southern Baptists and United Presbyterians? How could the nation remain united when its churches were splitting over slavery?*

These questions and many more drove the Gettysburg Seminary and the Adams County Historical Society to rehabilitate and adaptively reuse the iconic Schmucker Hall to create a museum interpreting its pivotal role in the first day of the battle.

Seminary and historical society leaders were able to create the new museum because they received partial public funding for the project.

What kinds of public assistance are available? Here's a summary:

#### **Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)**

This Pennsylvania-funded grant program supports the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic and historical improvement projects. The following are the selection criteria for a RACP award:

- Significant regional economic impact.
- Jobs created or maintained.
- Community impact.
- Strategic cluster for development.
- Financial impact / long-term sustainability of both the project and sponsoring organization.
- Construction shovel readiness.

The program requires that the project owner furnish match funding equal to or greater than the grant amount.

Other states may have similar programs.

#### **Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Scenic Byway Program**

Within the U.S. Department of Transportation, the National Scenic Byways Program is a grassroots, collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The Federal Highway Administration gives priority consideration to projects that create new jobs in the short-term and contribute to the economic competitiveness of the United States over the long-term.

### **New Market Tax Credits**

The New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC Program) was established by Congress in 2000 to spur new or increased investments into operating businesses and real estate projects located in low-income communities. The NMTC Program attracts investment capital to low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their Federal income tax return in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial institutions called Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit totals 39 percent of the original investment amount and is claimed over a period of seven years.

### **Historic Preservation Tax Credits**

Through the National Park Service, a 20 percent income tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings that are determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be “certified historic structures.” The State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service review the rehabilitation work to ensure that it complies with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation and the Internal Revenue Service defines qualified rehabilitation expenses on which the credit may be taken.