The criteria for selection are:

- * A demonstrated commitment to becoming an effective, staffed statewide preservation organization. This includes the goal of ultimately becoming a comprehensive statewide preservation organization. A comprehensive statewide undertakes such key functions as: state legislative advocacy; periodic statewide conferences; newsletter or other communication network; and information or assistance to local preservation organizations and preservationists. The statewide may choose to undertake additional programs, for example, revolving funds, heritage education, heritage tourism, and operation of historic properties, among others.
- * A likelihood of success in becoming an effective, staffed statewide preservation organization. In other words, a likelihood that the statewide, as a result of participation in the initiative, will succeed in making the breakthrough to a new level of effectiveness, including full-time staff, and in sustaining this level of effectiveness.

Interested statewides are invited to contact their regional office to discuss the initiative further.