



**The Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) is a self-study program developed specifically for small- to mid-sized history organizations including all-volunteer ones.**

StEPs offers a sound structure for assessing your organization's policies and practices, setting goals, and articulating achievements to your community, funders, and others. The program is flexible so your organization moves through the workbook at its own pace. More than 930 organizations are currently enrolled in the program. Discover these results with StEPs:

1. **Clear direction** for future improvement including more meaningful planning and budgeting
2. **Increased awareness and education** for board members, paid and unpaid staff, and volunteers of the national standards for operation of a museum, historic house, or site
3. **Improved policies and practices** that follow national museum standards
4. **Valuable support to make your case** for supplies, training, staffing and other needs.
5. **Increased credibility** with funders, your community, and other stakeholders
6. **Meaningful progress** as your organization achieves and articulates its accomplishments

**Enrollment in the StEPs program includes:**

- **StEPs workbook** with self-assessment questions and Basic/Good/Better performance indicators to help your organization assess its policies and practices, guide planning for change, and track progress
- **Bronze, Silver, and Gold certificates** for achievement of performance indicators
- **National recognition** for certificates earned and window decal to show participation in the program
- **Discounts on workshops and technical leaflets** to help staff and volunteers gain knowledge and skills
- **StEPs website** for sample policies and forms, electronic version of the StEPs workbook, and more

Enrollment is \$175 for AASLH institutional members or \$293 for non-members (includes a one-year institutional membership). The enrollment fee is a *one-time payment* whether it takes an organization two years or ten years to complete the program.

To enroll, visit [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org) or contact AASLH at (615) 320-3203. **Are you involved with a group of history organizations through an agency, state association, or other network?** Contact Cherie Cook, AASLH Senior Program Manager, at (573) 893-5164 or [cook@aaahl.org](mailto:cook@aaahl.org) to discuss the benefits of forming a StEPs group.