HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP)

The recently created Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP) provides competitive grants to preserve the unique histories of rural communities across America while fostering rural economic development. The HRSP was created in the FY 2018 omnibus spending bill with a $5 million Congressional appropriation.

Background

The HRSP is designed to foster economic development while preserving the history of rural communities by awarding grants of $100,000 to $750,000 to rehabilitate historic properties of significance in areas defined as rural by the U.S. Census (population less than 50,000). Eligible HRSP grant applicants include U.S.-based tax-exempt 501(c) nonprofits, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, State Historic Preservation Officers, and Certified Local Governments. The program will fund bricks and mortar preservation projects for historic sites.

The HRSP is modeled after the state of Vermont’s highly successful Village Revitalization Initiative (VRI), a partnership of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Preservation Vermont. The VRI has leveraged less than $2.5 million in federal grants to catalyze more than $27 million in rural economic development. The VRI partnership supported 27 historic restoration projects in 25 different rural communities and received a 2014 National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

FY 2020 Appropriations Request

Please support $7.5 million for the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund
ACTIVITY: Historic Revitalization Grants

Recent Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
<th>Budget Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018 Enacted</td>
<td>$5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2019 Enacted</td>
<td>$5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2020 President’s Budget Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2020 NTHP Recommendation</td>
<td>$7.5 million</td>
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JUSTIFICATION: Historic revitalization grants invest in preserving the unique cultures of the nation’s rural communities, fostering economic development and creating jobs.
Built c. 1813, the Old Round Church in Richmond, VT, is an iconic and well-preserved example of a 16-sided meeting house. The National Historic Landmark received a $25,000 VRI grant to restore the wooden steeple in 2009.

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