

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Historic Preservation Fund

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the principal source of funding to implement the nation's historic preservation programs. Funding for the HPF comes from revenue generated by oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf, not from taxpayer receipts. The HPF is authorized at \$150 million annually, though it is subject to annual appropriations. The program's authorized amount has not been increased since its inception in 1976.

As the nation continues to contend with important issues of racial and social justice, increased support for HPF programs is protecting and preserving more places and stories associated with intentionally disenfranchised and underrepresented groups. Additionally, increased funding for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), and HPF competitive grant programs will support many historic rehabilitation projects, which create well-paying, preservation-related jobs and invest in local communities.

Background

Preserving America's diverse heritage, cultures, and traditions requires coordination of federal, state, local, and private efforts. Administered by the National Park Service, the HPF provides matching grants by formula for SHPOs and THPOs, which are essential in supporting preservation initiatives across the nation. While funding for SHPOs and THPOs has increased in recent years, the significant growth in HPF funding has been for the competitive grant programs, which both advance racial equity and inclusion and support bricks and mortar job creation.



Dearfield was the largest African American homesteading settlement in Colorado formed in 1910 by Oliver Toussaint Jackson as the Negro Townsite and Land Company. The Dust Bowl forced homesteaders to seek employment in cities, and most of Dearfield's structures were torn down to reuse the lumber. The Historic Preservation Fund's African American Civil Rights Grant Program recently awarded the University of Northern Colorado \$497,776 to support rehabilitation efforts at Dearfield.

PHOTO BY GUY MASON

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$200 million for the Historic Preservation Fund in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding:	\$118.66 million
FY 2021 Enacted Funding:	\$144.30 million
FY 2022 Enacted Funding:	\$173.072 million
FY 2023 President's Budget Request:	\$151.80 million
FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation:	\$200.00 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding for the Historic Preservation Fund would allow SHPOs and THPOs to keep pace with increasing demands and essential responsibilities. Enhanced funding for successful competitive grant programs will help to better protect more places and preserve stories associated with diverse communities. Strong support of the HPF by the Administration and Congress indicates a higher authorized funding level is needed for appropriate stewardship of our nation's historic and cultural resources. The National Trust and preservation partners looked to growing support from Congress and the importance of increased investment in managing irreplaceable historic and cultural resources when formulating FY 2023 funding requests over the authorized amount.

Preserving Main Street

The Historic Preservation Fund benefits preservation in local communities through various programs such as the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, which includes 2,000 communities nationwide. Jointly administered by the National Park Service and SHPOs, the CLG Program allows local communities to access funding for surveys, National Register nominations, rehabilitation work, educational programs, structural assessments, feasibility studies, and more. At least 10% of HPF funding to states must be passed along to CLGs as subgrants. These local communities can also access SHPO staff for technical assistance. Preserving the historic fabric of main streets helps revitalize local economies and strengthen communities.



Las Vegas, New Mexico, a certified local government and an accredited New Mexico Main Street Program, received almost \$40,000 as a CLG grant from the State of New Mexico's Historic Preservation Division in 2021. Founded in 1835 along the Santa Fe Trail, Las Vegas was laid out in the traditional Spanish Colonial style, with a central plaza surrounded by buildings. Its plaza is preserved and remains a focal point of the city.

PHOTO BY MINESH BACRANIA



The Town of Bristol, Rhode Island, received a CLG grant in 2021 to complete an assessment of historic resources in the Waterfront Historic District that are located within the 100-year flood plain and endangered by sea level rise and storm events. The heart of Bristol is surrounded by the Narragansett and Mt. Hope Bays, potentially threatening much of its 18th century architecture.

PHOTO BY MATT CALOURO