The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program highlights significant events and people associated with the Underground Railroad as part of the early African American civil rights movement. The program not only designates sites to be included in the Network to Freedom listing, but also administers competitive grants to sites, programs, and facilities listed in the Network to complete preservation and research projects.

Background
In 1998, Congress passed the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act, which created the Network of Freedom Program to better commemorate and interpret the Underground Railroad and those who experienced it. Through the program, the National Park Service partners with local, state, and federal agencies as well as private individuals and organizations to educate the public, provide technical assistance, and compile and maintain a list of sites and programs related to the Underground Railroad. The Network to Freedom listing now recognizes more than 600 sites in 40 states plus Washington, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Between 2002 and 2014, $2.086 million in grants for “preservation and related research” was awarded to 115 projects.

FY 2020 Appropriations Request

Please support $2 million for grants within the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
AGENCY: National Park Service
ACCOUNT: ONPS Resource Stewardship
ACTIVITY: Park Management
SUBACTIVITY: Resource Stewardship—The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program

Recent Funding History:
FY 2017 Enacted Funding: $843,000
FY 2018 Enacted Funding: $843,000
FY 2019 Enacted Funding: TBD
FY 2020 President’s Budget Request: TBD
FY 2020 NTHP Recommendation: $2 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program would be used for staff support and reestablishment of the Network’s grant program.
The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Listings by State*

The Network to Freedom is composed of sites, facilities, and programs that are important to the commemoration and interpretation of Underground Railroad history.

**ALABAMA**
1 site

**ARIZONA**
2 programs
2 sites

**CALIFORNIA**
1 facility
5 programs
3 sites

**CONNECTICUT**
1 facility
1 site

**DELAWARE**
2 facilities
2 programs
11 sites

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
2 facilities
3 programs
13 sites

**FLORIDA**
2 facilities
3 programs
3 sites

**GEORGIA**
2 facilities
4 programs
2 sites

**HAWAII**
1 site

**ILLINOIS**
3 programs
17 sites

**INDIANA**
1 facility
5 programs
21 sites

**IOWA**
21 sites

**KANSAS**
3 programs
2 facilities
15 sites

**KENTUCKY**
2 facilities
5 programs
4 sites

**LOUISIANA**
2 facilities
1 site

**MAINE**
3 sites

**MARYLAND**
5 facilities
16 programs
59 sites

**MASSACHUSETTS**
6 facilities
5 programs
15 sites

**MICHIGAN**
1 facility
6 programs
18 sites

**MISSISSIPPI**
2 sites

**MISSOURI**
4 sites

**NEBRASKA**
1 program
11 sites

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**
1 site

**NEW JERSEY**
2 programs
1 site

**NEW MEXICO**
1 program

**NEW YORK**
10 facilities
9 programs
45 sites

**NORTH CAROLINA**
2 facilities
1 program
15 sites

**OHIO**
5 facilities
13 programs
62 sites

**OKLAHOMA**
1 site

**PENNSYLVANIA**
11 facilities
13 programs
29 sites

**RHODE ISLAND**
1 facility
1 program

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
1 facility
4 sites

**SOUTH DAKOTA**
1 site

**TENNESSEE**
1 program
2 sites

**TEXAS**
2 programs
1 site

**VERMONT**
1 site

**VIRGIN ISLANDS**
1 site

**VIRGINIA**
7 facilities
2 programs
31 sites

**WEST VIRGINIA**
1 facility
1 site

**WISCONSIN**
1 facility
2 programs
6 sites

*As of Fall 2017.

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