For additional information, contact Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations, ssprague@savingplaces.org or Lauren Cohen, Associate Director of Government Relations, lcohen@savingplaces.org.

Paulsdale, the childhood home of suffragist Alice Paul and the current headquarters of the Alice Paul Institute, received $302,950 from the History of Equal Rights grant program. The funds will go to structural stabilization and improvements to the house’s exterior.

PHOTO COURTESY ALICE PAUL INSTITUTE

Invest in the Preservation of Our Nation’s Heritage

The HPF provides direct support to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices that conduct surveys and documentation of historic resources and places, perform review of federal projects, and provide grants to local communities. In addition, the HPF also supports several competitive grant programs to preserve, document, and exhibit diverse histories. These programs address a wide variety of preservation needs across the country and fund various types of work. In recent years, more competitive grant programs have been created to celebrate the diversity of our nation and the histories of underrepresented communities - such as the History of Equal Rights, African American Civil Rights, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

During this period of a continuing resolution (CR), urge Congress to support the higher Senate funding level of $191.904 million in FY 2023 for the Historic Preservation Fund.

Boost Funding for the Historic Preservation Fund

For more than forty years, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has supported the preservation and rehabilitation of historic sites throughout the nation, leading to economic growth, job creation, and community revitalization. Through the HPF, Tribal Nations, states, cities, and towns across the country have benefitted from the preservation of their unique histories to create vibrant and inclusive communities that encompass our nation’s full history. Now more than ever, the work of the HPF is breathing life into long untold stories and helping communities protect places that form our cultural foundations.

The HPF does not use tax-payer dollars. The HPF is uniquely structured, allocating a small percentage of federal offshore drilling revenue (non-tax dollars) towards identifying, protecting, and utilizing historic resources. Every year since 1976, $150 million has been deposited into the HPF account in the federal treasury. Yet Congress has historically appropriated only a fraction of that amount.
Upcoming Reauthorization

Despite chronic underfunding, for more than four decades, the HPF has facilitated nearly 90,000 listings on the National Register, surveyed millions of acres to protect significant cultural resources, and supported $117 billion in private investment through the federal Historic Tax Credit—which is administered in part by State Historic Preservation Offices—resulting in the rehabilitation of over 47,000 historic buildings and the creation of nearly 3 million local jobs.

Authorization for the HPF is set to expire in September 2023. To address this, Representatives Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced the Historic Preservation Enhancement Act (H.R. 6589) in February 2022. This legislation would permanently authorize funding for the HPF, increase its authorization from $150 to $300 million annually, and ensure $300 million is appropriated each year. If enacted, the legislation would represent the first increase in the HPF’s authorized funding level since its inception in 1980. Adjusted for inflation, $150 million in 1980 is the equivalent of more than $537 million today.

Preserving America’s history becomes more challenging with the passage of time. The HPF should receive the support and certainty needed to adequately protect our nation’s historic resources well into the future.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For additional information, contact Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations, ssprague@savingplaces.org or Lauren Cohen, Associate Director of Government Relations, lcohen@savingplaces.org.