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 and has yet to receive full funding in any annual appropriation.

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 historically 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.

**FY 2022 Appropriations Request**

Please support $150 million for the Historic Preservation Fund in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill.

**APPROPRIATIONS BILL:** Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

**AGENCY:** National Park Service

**ACCOUNT:** Historic Preservation Fund

**Recent Funding History:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$102.66 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>$118.66 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>$144.30 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>$150.00 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 and preserve places and stories associated with diverse communities. The current economic crisis also provides an opportunity to catalyze the economic and job-related benefits of historic rehabilitation and related resource programs.
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.

Sitting on the edge of the Columbia River as it meets the Pacific Ocean, Astoria, Oregon, is the oldest settlement west of the Rockies. Lewis and Clark visited the town during their famed expedition, and Astoria now boosts 10,000 citizens specializing in fishing, forestry, art, and medicine. The town is currently experiencing a renaissance. For example, with assistance from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Partners in Preservation program, the historic Odd Fellows building has been restored to its former glory and serves as a lively community ballroom. The City of Astoria also used CLG funds to partially fund the lighting and mural place-making project (above) at the ‘13th Street Alley’ in the heart of the National Register district.

A certified local government and a Main Street West Virginia Community, Wheeling, West Virginia, boasts a historic Centre Market District that contains unique shopping, dining, and entertainment options. This area revolves around its two market houses, with the 1853 structure being the oldest cast iron market house in the country. Wheeling Heritage, a nonprofit dedicated to the revitalization of Wheeling, manages the Wheeling National Heritage Area and recently won the Great American Main Street Award in 2019.

For additional information, contact Shaw Sprague, Vice President of Government Relations and Policy, SSprague@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6339 or Tom Cassidy, Senior Advisor, TCassidy@savingplaces.org, (202) 588-6078.