



THE PRESERVATION BUDGET

Select Preservation Priorities for FY 2026 Appropriations

February 2025



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®

75 YEARS



The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately funded nonprofit organization that works to save America's historic places. From our headquarters in Washington, D.C., we take direct, on-the-ground action when historic sites are threatened. Our work helps build vibrant, sustainable communities. We facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or interest. We advocate with governments to save America's heritage, and we strive to create a cultural legacy that is as diverse as the nation itself so all of us can take pride in our part of the American story.

For more information, visit SavingPlaces.org.

ON THE COVER: THE DRAYTON HALL AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERY, PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL STEWART
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COURTESY OF THE ACHP, AND THE DURHAM MUSEUM, PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DURHAM MUSEUM



THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION urgently calls for action as we release our annual report recommending funding levels for vital federal preservation programs. Historic preservation is not just about protecting our past—it is essential to preserving the very places, stories, and traditions that define us as a nation. Programs housed under the National Park Service like the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), Cultural Programs, and more, are vital resources in this effort, safeguarding America's irreplaceable treasures and driving economic growth, community identity, and sustainability through the reuse of historic buildings.

As we look toward Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, we urge Congress to make critical investments in historic preservation programs. It is crucial that we communicate to policymakers the profound and lasting impact of historic preservation investments. Every dollar spent generates tangible returns—creating jobs, boosting local economies, and enhancing tourism. Preservation strengthens communities and preserves our cultural legacy for future generations.

With our nation's 250th Anniversary approaching, we urgently call on Congress to invest \$225 million in the HPF for FY2026. This funding supports State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, which are at the core of preservation efforts, providing essential resources for project reviews, technical assistance, and grant administration. Ensuring continued investment in competitive grants will safeguard historically significant sites, including those of underserved, diverse, and rural communities, affirming our commitment to preserving a more complete national history.

We cannot afford to wait. By advocating for robust funding for preservation, we ensure that we can continue to protect the places that tell the stories of our nation's past, present, and future. We urge all preservation advocates to act—contact your representatives, voice support for preservation priorities, and spread awareness about the rich benefits of preservation. Together, we can work toward safeguarding America's heritage by protecting and enhancing these programs. The time to act is now to protect the history of all Americans for generations to come.

**SHAW SPRAGUE, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS,
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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PRESERVATION BUDGET AT-A-GLANCE

PROGRAM	RECENT APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY BY FISCAL YEAR (IN MILLIONS)				
	FY23 ENACTED	FY24 ENACTED	FY25 ENACTED	FY26 ADMIN REQUEST	FY26 NTHP REQUEST
Historic Preservation Fund					
State Historic Preservation Officers	\$62.150	\$62.150	\$62.150	\$0	\$70.000
Tribal Historic Preservation Officers	\$23.000	\$23.000	\$23.000	\$0	\$34.000
African American Civil Rights Grants	\$24.000	\$24.000	\$24.000	\$0	\$28.000
History of Equal Rights Grants	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$0	\$7.000
Underrepresented Community Grants	\$1.250	\$1.250	\$1.250	\$0	\$5.000
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grants	\$11.000	\$11.000	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$13.000
Save America's Treasures Grants	\$26.500	\$25.500	\$25.000	\$0	\$40.000
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants	\$12.500	\$10.000	\$10.000	\$0	\$17.000
Congressionally Directed Spending	\$29.115	\$19.766	\$0	\$0	N/A
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants	\$10.000	\$7.000	\$7.000	\$0	\$11.000
Historic Preservation Fund (Total)	\$204.515	\$188.666	\$168.900	\$11.000	\$225.000
Deferred Maintenance					
Line-Item Construction on Projects	\$126.700	\$80.600	\$80.600	\$55.520	\$145.000
Repair and Rehabilitation	\$135.980	\$110.980	\$110.890	\$0	\$150.000
Cyclic Maintenance	\$188.184	\$188.184	\$172.255	\$99.509	\$205.000
Other NPS Programs					
Affiliated Areas	\$5.787		\$5.787	\$0	\$6.750
Cultural Programs	\$39.327	\$39.327	\$39.327	\$10.759	\$46.000
African American Burial Grounds Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.000
National Heritage Areas	\$29.232	\$29.232	\$29.232	\$0	\$34.000
National Networks					
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom	\$2.505		\$2.505	\$0	\$2.750
African American Civil Rights Network	\$5.384	\$5.000	\$5.000	\$0	\$6.000
Reconstruction Era National Historic Network	\$0.627	\$0.621	\$0.621	\$0	\$1.000
WWII Heritage Cities Network	\$0.627		\$0.621	\$0	\$1.000
Japanese American World War II History Network	N/A	\$0.250	\$0.250	\$0	\$1.000
Independent Agencies					
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	\$8.585	\$8.585	\$8.585	\$5.151	\$10.500
National Endowment for the Arts	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$29.000	\$209.00
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$207.000	\$38.000	\$209.00

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Historic Preservation Fund

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the primary source of funding for the nation’s historic preservation programs. Preserving America’s rich heritage, cultures, and traditions requires coordinated efforts at the federal, state, local, and private levels. Administered by the National Park Service, the HPF provides matching grants to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), which play a crucial role in supporting preservation efforts nationwide. The HPF also supports several competitive grant programs, which fund the preservation of sites associated with underrepresented groups to tell the full story of all Americans.



The Durham Museum, housed in the historic Omaha Union Station in Omaha, Nebraska, received a Save America’s Treasures grant in 2024. This railway station was key to Omaha’s growth at the turn of the 20th century, and is a stunning example of Art Deco architecture that personified the era. Save America’s Treasures grants support shovel-ready historic preservation projects in states and territories across the country.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DURHAM MUSEUM

Background

Since 1976, the HPF has been authorized to receive \$150 million annually, though this amount was subject to annual appropriations increases or decreases. However, the authorization for the HPF expired at the end of September 2023, after Congress failed to act before the deadline. Efforts are underway to reauthorize the HPF and increase the authorized amount. The HPF needs continued support and long-term certainty to effectively protect our nation’s historic resources for future generations.

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$225 million for the Historic Preservation Fund in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding:	\$204.515 million
FY 2024 Enacted Funding:	\$188.666 million
FY 2025 Enacted Funding:	\$168.900 million
FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation:	\$225.000 million

JUSTIFICATION: Enhanced funding for successful competitive grant programs will help to better protect more places and preserve stories associated with diverse communities. Increased funding for the Historic Preservation Fund would allow SHPOs and THPOs to keep pace with increasing demands and essential responsibilities. Strong support of the HPF by the Administration and Congress indicates a higher authorized funding level is needed for appropriate stewardship of our nations historic and cultural resources. Funding recommendations from the National Trust and preservation partners reflect the needs from the field when formulating FY 2026 funding requests.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

State Historic Preservation Officers

State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) administer federal historic preservation programs at the state and local level, as well as administer their own state programs. These programs help communities identify, evaluate, preserve, and revitalize their historic, archaeological, and cultural resources. The National Park Service (NPS) distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants to SHPOs by apportionment formula, with states and territories required to match 40% of the funding they receive.



The Cigar Factory in Charleston, South Carolina, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2025. Originally built c. 1882, the Cigar Factory was the site of the 1945-46 strike by African American women calling for better wages and working conditions. Over 1,000 employees on strike sang “We Shall Overcome,” a song that would eventually become the civil rights anthem of the 1960s. It is now a mixed use retail and education space.

PHOTO COURTESY THE CIGAR FACTORY

SHPO responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing Federal Historic Tax Credit projects
In FY 2021, the federal Historic Tax Credit program leveraged \$7.2 billion in total rehabilitation expenses and created 135,000 jobs
- Reviewing federal projects for their impact on historic resources (Section 106 review)
SHPOs reviewed over 106,300 federal undertakings in 2022
- Locating, surveying, and recording historic and cultural resources
In 2022, SHPOs and consultants surveyed approximately 8.9 million acres for cultural resources
- Facilitating nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register)
In 2022, SHPOs processed and reviewed 93,000 nominations for inclusion in the National Register, of which 850 were added to the National Register of Historic Places
- Supporting local historic preservation programs through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$70 million for State Historic Preservation Officers in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

ACTIVITY: Grants to States

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding: \$62.150 million

FY 2024 Enacted Funding: \$62.150 million

FY 2025 Enacted Funding: \$62.150 million

FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation: **\$70.000 million**

JUSTIFICATION: SHPOs are essential for the implementation of the nation’s historic preservation programs. States and Tribes are facing an influx of Section 106 project reviews impacting historic resources. Increased funding will allow SHPOs to maximize efficiencies in federal project reviews and better carry out their duties under the National Historic Preservation Act.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) are officially designated by federally-recognized Native American Tribes to direct preservation programs approved by the National Park Service (NPS). The THPO assumes some or all of the functions and responsibilities of State Historic Preservation Officers on tribal lands. The NPS distributes Historic Preservation Fund grants to THPOs by apportionment formula.

Background

For many years, THPOs have received insufficient federal funding to fully implement their federally mandated responsibilities. There were only 12 federally recognized THPOs when the program began in 1996, with \$79,875 allocated to each. In FY 2021, by contrast, 198 THPOs received an average of \$69,369 in funding. There are now well over 200 THPOs.

Collectively, Tribes with NPS-recognized THPOs exercise responsibilities over a land base that exceeds 50 million acres in 30 states. THPOs review federal undertakings— including projects using federal funding or requiring federal approval—for their impacts on tribal historic resources (Section 106 review). THPOs also survey and maintain inventories of tribal historic resources, prepare preservation plans, and provide technical assistance and funding for preservation activities. THPOs also facilitate nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and Tribal Registers. Along with federal, state, and local law enforcement, THPOs work to prosecute looters of Indian remains and sacred objects. They also provide oversight for repatriation per the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

In FY 2022, THPOs:

- Reviewed more than 9,850 Tribal Lands and 125,500 Ancestral Lands, providing 9,850 National Register eligibility opinions
- Surveyed approximately 357,000 acres for cultural resources
- Nominated almost 1,640 properties to Tribal Registers



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe THPO submitted a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Asiniwaakaa'igan/Stone House. Built in the late 1800s in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, this historic property is believed to have been a site of refuge for children who escaped from the nearby Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe was approved to formally establish a THPO office in 2013.

PHOTO COURTESY SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE THPO

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$34 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

ACTIVITY: Grants to Tribes

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding:	\$23.000 million
FY 2024 Enacted Funding:	\$23.000 million
FY 2025 Enacted Funding:	\$23.000 million
FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation:	\$34.000 million

JUSTIFICATION: Since the creation of the program, the number of federally-recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Officers has grown from 12 to over 200.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

Competitive Grant Programs

The Competitive Grant Programs within the HPF support the preservation of historic sites related to the African American struggle for equal rights, highlight the histories of underrepresented communities, revitalize historic rural downtowns, and much more. These programs provide grants to states, tribes, local governments (including Certified Local Governments), and nonprofits. Their goal is to tell the full American story through historic preservation projects in communities nationwide.



The ILZRO House in Foster, Rhode Island, received an Underrepresented Communities Grant in 2025 to recognize the little-known history of Disability Design. This first-of-its-kind house was built in 1972 and was purposefully designed for disabled and non-disabled accessibility.

PHOTO COURTESY NATASHA HARRISON, RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support a total of \$121 million for the collective competitive grant programs within the Historic Preservation Fund in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Historic Preservation Fund

ACTIVITY: Competitive Grant Programs

COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM	FY 2023 ENACTED	FY2024 ENACTED	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 NTHP RECOMMENDATION
African American Civil Rights Grants	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$28
History of Equal Rights Grants	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$7
Underrepresented Community Grants	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$5
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grants	\$11	\$11	\$11	\$13
Save America's Treasures Grants	\$26.5	\$25.5	\$25	\$40
Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants	\$12.5	\$10	\$10	\$17
Semiquincentennial Preservation Grants	\$10	\$7	\$7	\$11

IN MILLIONS

Save America's Treasures Grants

The Save America's Treasures (SAT) competitive grant program preserves nationally significant historic and cultural resources. Through funded projects and community engagement, SAT grants enable a richer and more diverse American history to be told.

African American Civil Rights Grants

The African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program funds the preservation of the sites and stories associated with the African American struggle for equal rights.

Semiquicentennial Preservation Grants

The Semiquicentennial Preservation Grants marks the 250th anniversary of the United States by providing grants to restore and preserve state owned sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation.

History of Equal Rights Grants

The History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program protects the sites important in securing civil rights for all Americans, including women, American Latino, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and LGBTQ Americans.

Underrepresented Community Grants

The Underrepresented Community Grant Program supports projects to enable the National Park Service (NPS) to better recognize, preserve, and interpret the stories of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented groups.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grants

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Grant Program supports historic preservation projects "honoring and preserving the unique and important role (HBCUs) played in advancing the realization of a more free, equal, and just society."

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program provides competitive grants to revive historic properties in rural communities across America. The program, formerly known as the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, was renamed in honor of Paul Bruhn, the late executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont.



A recipient of a Semiquicentennial Preservation Grant, the Ximenez-Fatio House in St. Augustine, Florida, was built in 1798 during the Second Spanish Period. This period is known as the "Flights of Freedom." During this time, enslaved people found their way to freedom in Spanish Colonial Florida to seek refuge in Catholic settlements. The Ximenez-Fatio House is one of only 31 remaining coquina and tabby structures in St. Augustine, which was built using very rare and fragile building materials.

PHOTO COURTESY ERIC VARDAKIS FOR XIMENEZ FATIO HOUSE MUSEUM



The Montana Historical Society was a recipient of an African American Civil Rights Grant in 2024 to preserve the Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Great Falls, Montana. When it was built in 1917, it was the only African American church in use in the entire state. It became a central site of community, education, and civil rights activity in Montana.

PHOTO COURTESY MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program

The African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. This program authorizes the National Park Service, in consultation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and members of the Black heritage community, to establish a \$3 million annual grant program to aid preservation efforts across the country to research, identify, document, preserve, and interpret historic African American burial grounds.



The Drayton Hall African American cemetery near Charleston, SC is believed to be one of the first African American cemeteries in the U.S. A wrought-iron archway designed by renowned blacksmith Phillip Simmons frames the walkway and visitors of the Drayton Hall plantation can learn about those who lived and were buried there.

PHOTO COURTESY DANIEL STEWART, COPYRIGHT © NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Background

For more than five years, advocates urged Congress to pass legislation that protects and preserves historic African American cemeteries. While Congress authorized the program in December 2022 and preliminary House floor and Senate subcommittee activity in 2024 supported the initial funding, appropriated funds are still necessary in FY 2026 to launch the program. This program will allow descendant-led and preservation organizations working to protect African American burial grounds to receive funding to preserve these sacred landscapes. Assisting with the discovery of these places of tribute and memory ahead of commercial development will help avoid disturbances of these sacred places and aid family members, descendants, and community members in honoring and remembering their shared past.

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$3.0 million for the African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation

ACTIVITY: Cultural Programs

SUBACTIVITY: African American Burial Grounds Preservation

Recent Funding History:

FY 2024-FY2025 Enacted Funding: N/A

FY 2026 President's Budget Request: N/A

FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation: **\$3.0 million**

JUSTIFICATION: The protection and documentation of African American burial grounds have long been neglected and many African American burial grounds are in a state of disrepair, are inaccessible, or unmapped. This grant program would provide competitive funding to aid communities, descendants, and localities to preserve and document these sites.

Cultural Programs

The National Park Service (NPS) administers many of our nation’s most significant historic preservation programs that help preserve a more complete history. Within its cultural programs, the NPS manages the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), certifies federal Historic Tax Credit projects, coordinates federal archaeology programs, and provides funding through the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Grants, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants, and American Battlefield Protection Program Assistance Grants.



Wing Luke Memorial Foundation received \$110,084 from the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program for a new permanent exhibition telling the broader history of Japanese American World War II incarceration. The exhibition will highlight stories of the Puyallup detention facility and Minidoka concentration camp where the majority of Seattle’s Japanese American community were incarcerated. The image depicts Historic Block 22 at Minidoka, which contained barracks and other facilities.

PHOTO COURTESY STAN HONDA, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Background

NPS Cultural Programs support preservation of our cultural heritage through:

- National Register of Historic Places
- National Historic Landmarks Program
- Heritage documentation programs
- Technical Preservation Services that administers the federal Historic Tax Credit
- National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) Grants
- Japanese American Confinement Site Grants
- American Battlefield Protection Program Assistance Grants
- Historic Preservation Fund Grants

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$46 million for NPS Cultural Programs in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation

ACTIVITY: Cultural Programs

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding:	\$39.327 million
FY 2024 Enacted Funding:	\$39.327 million
FY 2025 Enacted Funding:	\$39.327 million
FY 2026 President’s Budget Request:	\$10.759 million
FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation:	\$46.000 million

JUSTIFICATION: The NPS’s Cultural Programs support many of our nation’s premier preservation programs that benefit local communities. Increased funding will maintain and improve access to the National Register, including modernizing its information system. It will also support ongoing demands to review and approve federal historic tax credits and administer expanded grant programs.

Deferred Maintenance

The National Park Service (NPS) manages a network of over 430 parks and sites that protect spectacular historic, cultural, and natural resources and tell the stories of remarkable people and events in our nation’s history. The size and complexity of NPS infrastructure and its mission to preserve our parks’ resources represent a significant challenge. After more than 100 years of operation and inconsistent public funding, the National Park System faces a backlog of repairs, or deferred maintenance.

In August 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, dedicating up to \$6.5 billion over 5 years to help tackle the NPS backlog. While this substantial one-time investment will reduce the backlog, increased and robust annual appropriations remain necessary to tackle the remainder of the backlog and prevent it from growing to such levels again. The GAOA established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund which sunsets in 2025 and should be extended to ensure necessary investments to preserve and protect historic assets in the National Park System.

Background

Each year, Congress appropriates funds for three principal accounts that help address the maintenance backlog of the NPS. Line-Item Construction funds major rehabilitation and replacement projects that cost \$1 million or more. Repair and Rehabilitation projects are large-scale, non-recurring needs that cost less than \$1 million and where scheduled maintenance is no longer sufficient. Cyclic Maintenance includes periodically scheduled upkeep and repairs.



National Park Service-funded projects to repair deferred maintenance and preserve historic sites include the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Restoration Project. Designed in the late 1800’s, this National Historic Landmark in North Carolina is the tallest traditional lighthouse in the United States.

PHOTO COURTESY HENRY HARTLEY, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$145 million for NPS Line-Item Construction, \$150 million for Repair and Rehabilitation, and \$205 million for Cyclic Maintenance in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: Construction (Line Item)

ONPS, Facilities, Operations, and Maintenance

NPS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	FY 2023 ENACTED	FY2024 ENACTED	FY2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 PRESIDENT’S REQUEST	FY 2026 NTHP RECOMMENDATION
Line-Item Construction	\$126.700	\$80.600	\$80.600	\$55.520	\$145.000
Repair and Rehabilitation	\$135.980	\$110.980	\$110.890	\$0	\$150.000
Cyclic Maintenance	\$188.184	\$188.184	\$172.255	\$99.509	\$205.000

IN MILLIONS

JUSTIFICATION: Robust annual appropriations are necessary to address the deferred maintenance backlog and prevent historic and cultural resources from permanent damage or loss.

National Heritage Areas

As of December, 2024, Congress has designated 62 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) across 36 states and territories to recognize the unique national significance of a region's sites and history. Through local and regional partnerships with the National Park Service (NPS), these large lived-in landscapes connect heritage conservation with recreation and economic development. NHAs may be managed by federal commissions, nonprofit groups, universities, and state agencies or municipal authorities, guided by a management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Through this partnership strategy, heritage areas combine historic preservation, cultural and natural resource conservation, local and regional preservation planning, and heritage education and tourism.

Background

National Heritage Areas are partnerships among the National Park Service, states, and local communities, in which the NPS supports state and local conservation through federal recognition, seed money, and technical assistance. NHAs are designated by individual legislation with specific provisions for operation unique to the area's specific resources and desired goals. NHAs are often organized around a theme, industry, and/or geographic feature that has influenced our national culture and history. Lands within NHAs remain in state, local, private ownership, or a combination thereof. NHA designation does not affect private property rights.



Designated by Congress in 2023, the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area celebrates the deep connection between people, culture, and the rugged landscapes of Maine's coastal and inland waterways. Named for the historic "Downeast" sailing route, the region's heritage is rooted in shipbuilding, fishing, wild blueberry farming, granite quarrying, timber harvesting, and nature-based arts and tourism. Through programs and partnerships, the heritage area preserves and shares the enduring stories of this unique maritime and forested landscape.

WEST QUODDY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE AND STATE PARK—PHOTO BY JERRY MONKMAN

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$34 million for National Heritage Areas in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: National Recreation and Preservation

ACTIVITY: Heritage Partnership Programs/National Heritage Areas

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding: \$29.232 million

FY 2024 Enacted Funding: \$29.232 million

FY 2025 Enacted Funding: \$29.232 million

FY 2026 President's Budget Request: \$0

FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation: \$34 million

JUSTIFICATION: According to the National Park Service, NHAs leverage an average of \$5.50 for every \$1 of federal investment to create jobs, generate local government revenue, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism. The requested level would provide \$500,000 for all heritage areas, including the seven newly designated NHAs from the 2022 National Heritage Area Act, and includes funding for the authorized feasibility studies.

OTHER PROGRAMS

National Networks

The NPS manages five national networks around important themes in American history: African American Civil Rights, the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, the Reconstruction Era, World War II Heritage Cities, and Japanese American World War II History. These programs coordinate preservation, research, and education efforts nationwide across large networks of partners. Through shared leadership with local, State, and Federal entities, as well as other stakeholders, the NPS educates the public about the history and significance of these themes; provides technical assistance to empower communities to document, preserve, and tell their stories; and maintains listings of historic sites, interpretive and educational programs, and facilities with verifiable connections to the themes.

Notably, the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN) program expired on January 8, 2025 when Congress did not reauthorize the program. Without congressional action, communities will no longer be able to submit applications to include their civil rights sites in the NPS program. Restoring and sustaining funding for AACRN and other NPS networks is crucial to preserving these stories and ensuring that future generations have access to the full breadth of our nation's history.



Brown Chapel AME Church served as the starting point for the Selma-to-Montgomery marches that led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and is a cornerstone of the Civil Rights Movement. In the first months of 1965, the church hosted the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), while the nearby First Baptist Church housed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). On March 7, 1965—"Bloody Sunday"—600 protestors gathered here before marching toward Montgomery, only to be brutally attacked by state troopers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The violence, broadcast nationwide, galvanized support for voting rights, culminating in the passage of landmark legislation that reshaped American democracy. The church was also listed on the Trust's 11 Most Endangered Places list in 2022.

Despite the enduring significance of sites like Brown Chapel, the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN) program expired on January 8, 2025, due to a lack of congressional reauthorization.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ACHP

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$11.750 million to administer and enhance National Networks programs in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: National Park Service

ACCOUNT: ONPS Resource Stewardship

ACTIVITY: Park Cultural Resource Support

FUNCTION: National Networks

NATIONAL NETWORKS	FY 2023 ENACTED	FY2024 ENACTED	FY2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 PRESIDENT'S REQUEST	FY 2026 NTHP RECOMMENDATION
African American Civil Rights Network	\$5.384	\$5	\$5	\$0	\$6.000
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom	\$2.505		\$2.505	\$0	\$2.750
Reconstruction Era National Historic Network	\$0.627	\$0.621	\$0.621	\$0	\$1.000
World War II Heritage Cities Network	\$0.627		\$0.621	\$0	\$1.000
Japanese American World War II History Network	N/A	\$0.250	\$0.250	\$0	\$1.000

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding would provide additional support for the National Park Service to enhance the administration and expansion of National Networks programs.

IN MILLIONS

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of our nation’s diverse historic resources and advises the President and the Congress on national historic preservation policies.

Background

The ACHP oversees administrative rulemaking for preservation programs, assists in resolving conflicts arising from Section 106 reviews of federal undertakings, identifies efficiencies in the review process of infrastructure projects, and engages in other preservation issues. It is also responsible for advising the Administration, Congress, and state agencies on legislative, regulatory, and administrative policies related to historic preservation and tribal consultation.

In FY 2026, the ACHP will continue its work to develop efficiencies for Section 106 review of federal undertakings. It will also advance actions identified through its “Leveraging Federal Historic Buildings Working Group” that identified opportunities to lease federal buildings for adaptive reuse. The ACHP’s “Climate Change and Historic Preservation Task Force” will continue to promote sustainable and resilient communities where historic properties are used as assets for promoting energy efficiency and community livability and are prepared for climate impacts. In recognition of the nation’s housing challenges, the

ACHP recently updated its housing policy statement to encourage more rehabilitation of historic housing and adaptation of historic buildings not originally built for housing.

The ACHP also performs a critical role in the long-range planning necessary to respond to natural disasters including emergency response and recovery.



Wright-Patterson Air Force Base restored its iconic 1935 Art Deco Building 12 instead of constructing new facilities. Through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Air Force, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Ohio SHPO, ensured the project met historic preservation standards while integrating modern security and sustainability. Completed in 2010, the \$13 million restoration preserved WPAFB’s rich heritage and earned national recognition, demonstrating the power of Section 106 in balancing progress with preservation.

PHOTO COURTESY ACHP

FY 2026 Appropriations Request

Please support \$10.5 million for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in the FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Recent Funding History:

FY 2023 Enacted Funding:	\$8.585 million
FY 2024 Enacted Funding:	\$8.585 million
FY 2025 Enacted Funding:	\$8.585 million
FY 2026 President’s Budget Request:	\$5.151 million
FY 2026 NTHP Recommendation:	\$10.500 million

JUSTIFICATION: An increase in funding would enhance the ACHP’s performance of its essential roles in ensuring that the nation’s historic and cultural resources are protected. This increase would also advance the timely delivery of major infrastructure projects, and enhance consultation with Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and intertribal organizations.

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The creation of this report was co-managed by **Lauren Cohen, Associate Director of Government Relations**, and **Jackson Bunis, Associate Manager, Policy Communications**. We would like to acknowledge the rest of our team, whose contributions made this report possible:

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