

The Historic Preservation Fund & Local Commissions



What is the HPF?

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a federal funding source that supports the core historic preservation activities of **State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs)** under the **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**.

HPF funding helps to **identify, protect, and preserve** historic places in communities across the United States. It supports essential programs such as:

- **Revitalizing communities through the Historic Tax Credit Program**, which fuels investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- **Identifying and documenting** historic places to ensure their stories and significance are recognized and preserved.
- **Giving locals a voice** in federal projects to protect historic resources and cultural heritage.
- **Overseeing the National Register of Historic Places** to honor America's historic treasures.
- **Equipping local preservationists with the knowledge and skills they need** to make a lasting impact in their communities through education and training.



When was the HPF created? How is it funded?

The HPF was established by Congress in 1976 when the National Historic Preservation Act was amended.

The HPF is funded through revenue from offshore oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The fund was established with the idea that revenue from the extraction of non-renewable resources (oil and gas) should support the preservation of another non-renewable resource—historic and cultural assets.



How are the funds distributed?

The HPF is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) who disperses the funds as grants-in-aid to SHPOs and THPOs. The SHPOs are responsible for sub-granting at least 10% of the allocation to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

The HPF also funds a variety of grant programs (administered by NPS) that support preservation and community revitalization projects nationwide.



How does my community benefit from the HPF?

The HPF directly benefits local communities by providing essential resources to identify, protect, and celebrate historic places. By funding rehabilitation projects, historic resource surveys, and training programs, the HPF helps communities preserve their unique heritage while strengthening local economies. These investments create jobs, attract heritage tourism, and ensure that historic places continue to serve residents and visitors for generations to come.

Across the country, HPF funding has supported more than 98,000 National Register of Historic Places listings and helped leverage over \$199 billion in private investment through the federal Historic Tax Credit program—preserving irreplaceable places in communities just like yours.



Future of the HPF

The HPF must be periodically reauthorized by Congress and is subject to the annual appropriations process. Since its creation, Congress has authorized \$150 million annually to support 59 states and territories, as well as grant programs administered by the National Park Service. However, Congress has the discretion to fund the HPF at levels above or below this amount. In fiscal year 2024, Congress allocated \$188.666 million to the HPF.

The HPF directly supports local commissions by funding grants for rehabilitation projects, historic resource surveys, and National Register nominations. It also strengthens local preservation efforts by ensuring that State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs) have the staff and resources needed to assist communities and connect them with federal preservation programs.

Looking ahead, rising costs and an increasing number of federal reviews—due in part to major infrastructure initiatives—are straining preservation offices. Without increased funding, SHPOs and THPOs will struggle to meet growing demands, which could negatively impact local preservation efforts. To sustain the economic and cultural benefits of historic preservation, it is critical that Congress increase HPF funding, ensuring communities can continue to invest in and protect their irreplaceable historic places.



Learn More

Learn more about the HPF from NAPC's partners:

National Trust for Historic Preservation

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National Council on Historic Preservation

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Preservation Action

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