

ISSUE BRIEF

Support Permanent and Increased Authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund

ACRA Position

Congress should permanently authorize the Historic Preservation Fund and double its authorization to help states, communities and tribes protect the places that tell our nation's story.

Background

Since its establishment in the 1970s, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has supported the rescue and rehabilitation of historic sites, revitalized communities, and created opportunities for economic growth.

The Fund helps the National Park Service administer heritage programs such as the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic Tax Credit Program. It also partially supports State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (S/THPOs), which are tasked with the inventory of America's historic resources and facilitating Section 106 reviews of federally supported projects.

Over the last four decades, the HPF has made possible the survey of millions of acres and identification of numerous cultural resources, resulting in over 95,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, provided millions of dollars for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, and leveraged more than \$162 billion in private investment through the Historic Tax Credit. Not a single dollar of HPF funding comes from federal taxpayers; funding for the HPF comes from offshore oil leases.

Demand for HPF funds is constantly on the rise as SHPO responsibilities have increased, new THPO offices are established, and competitive grant programs are created and expanded. Yet the Fund's annual authorization of \$150 million has remained the same since the 1970s. Further, the HPF sunsets in 2023, denying certainty to state and tribal preservation offices about the long-term availability of funding.

As Congress considers significant investments in infrastructure, a lack of adequate funding for the HPF will make it difficult for preservation offices to carry out programs that support management of our cultural resources, heritage preservation, and community development.

Permanently authorizing the HPF and doubling its authorized amount will provide certainty for the planning efforts of states, Tribes and local communities, and would ensure they have the capacity to preserve our historic resources. That is why the House included an amendment to the INVEST in America Act to permanently authorize the Historic Preservation Fund and increase its annual appropriations authorization to \$300 million.

About the American Cultural Resources Association

ACRA is the national trade association supporting and promoting the common interests of cultural resource management (CRM) firms of all sizes, types and specialties. Member firms undertake much of the legally mandated CRM studies and investigations in the United States.

For more information, contact ACRA at info@acra-crm.org.