

Tribal Funding History

The National Park Service awarded almost \$35.6 million from the Historic Preservation Fund to Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations between 1990 and 2005.

Average grant awards were \$79,875 in 1996 but have fallen to \$46,724 per tribe in 2005. NPS allocates funds annually to THPOs based on a non-competitive formula.

Of this total, approximately \$19 million has supported THPOs carrying out ongoing national programs.

The remaining \$16.5 million represents over 450 competitively awarded project grants.

HPF Tribal Line Item Funding History 1990–2005

YEAR	Comp. Grt \$	# Grts	THPO \$	# THPOs	THPO Avg
1990	\$473,000	15	0		
1991	\$721,448	36	0		
1992	\$888,000	36	0		
1993	\$1,412,000	44	0		
1994	\$1,930,000	43	0		
1995	\$1,996,000	49	0		
1996	\$862,300	36	\$958,500	12	\$79,875
1997	\$901,000	27	\$920,000	14	\$65,714
1998	\$1,109,075	27	\$1,009,347	17	\$59,373
1999	\$1,186,000	28	\$1,320,000	19	\$69,474
2000	\$956,644	20	\$1,500,000	22	\$68,182
2001	\$1,210,351	29	\$4,180,000	27	\$154,815
2002	\$704,649	20	\$2,250,000	29	\$77,586
2003	\$726,000	15	\$2,250,000	35	\$64,286
2004	\$664,478	15	\$2,254,554	45	\$50,101
2005	\$753,208	23	\$2,429,641	52	\$46,724
TOTALS	\$16,494,153	463	\$19,072,042		

Cover Photo: The photo, taken at the annual Tribal Cultural Fair, Fading Voices, in the Snowbird Community of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, shows bilingual craft artist Shirley Jackson Oswalt participating in the tribe's stamped pottery revitalization effort. Oswalt is a member of the Cherokee Snowbird Community. (Photo courtesy of Renissa Walker, EBCI Cultural Resources Department Manager, Cherokee, North Carolina.)

To learn more about the National Park Service and the Tribal Preservation Program write:
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National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior

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 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 1849 C Street, NW (2255)
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Preserving Tribal Heritage 1990–2005



Tribal Historic Preservation



MEMBERS OF THE PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION regard the Penobscot River as sacred. They have used the river and its estuaries for sustenance and spiritual renewal for over 10,000 years. The tribe officially assumed SHPO duties in 2003. ▲

Origins of the Tribal Historic Preservation Program

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) established a national program to identify, evaluate, and encourage the protection of the nation's significant historic places. NHPA provided for the appointment of a State Historic Preservation Officer in each state, and matching grants from the Historic Preservation Fund to help carry out the state functions set out in the Act.

In 1990 Congress appropriated money from the Historic Preservation Fund for grants to assist Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations in "the preservation of their cultural heritage" and, at the same time, asked the National Park Service (NPS) to report on "the funding needs for the management, research, interpretation, protection and development of sites of historical significance on Indian lands throughout the Nation."

The NPS report, "Keepers of the Treasures: Protecting Historic Properties and Cultural Traditions on Indian Lands," indicated that funding assistance was needed for a wide range of activities aimed at preserving Indian cultural heritage. The report concluded: Indian tribes must be "afforded the opportunity to participate fully in the national historic preservation program on terms that reflect their cultural values and traditions as well as their status as sovereign nations."

In 1992 Congress responded to NPS's report by amending NHPA to provide that a tribe may assume full responsibility on tribal lands for carrying out any or all of those activities previously assigned to the state. Congress defined tribal lands as being (A) all lands within the exterior boundaries of a reservation; and (B) all dependent Indian communities. NPS is responsible for processing the request for a tribe to assume these duties as a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO).

"Sacred sites protection is a momentous responsibility requiring tremendous dedication on the part of those who serve this purpose. The duty of cultural preservation must be approached with knowledge, diligence and especially, reverence. This is what our Tribal Historic Preservation Officers impart."

—Keller George,
President,
United South and
Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

In 1996, NPS approved 12 tribes for national program duties. Since then, tribal participation in the national program has grown every year, with 52 tribes from all across the nation assuming these duties by 2005. Ever-increasing growth of tribal participation in the national program has continued despite limited Federal funding.

Each tribe that assumes national program duties for identifying, evaluating, and protecting historic and cultural sites has a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) appointed by the tribal government, to oversee the program. THPOs ensure that program activities reflect the knowledge and participation of tribal elders, cultural authorities, and

spiritual leaders, as well as archeologists and historians. THPO efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect significant places and practices are based on the understanding that cultural and spiritual values are at least as important, if not more so, as archeological and non-Native historical values.

The growing participation of tribes in the national program signals a continuing evolution of the entire national historic preservation program. The inclusion of tribal values and the acknowledgment of the rightful place of sovereign tribal governments have significantly enhanced the national program. THPOs act as change agents for the national program's growth and evolution.

"Tribal Historic Preservation Officers provide leadership in the preservation and protection of cultural resources including sacred sites and beliefs, archaeological sites, cultural historic objects, traditional knowledge and tribal history. Such preservation enables tribes to retain unique cultural identity and cultural ways of life."

— Charles E. Vaughn, Chairman, Hualapai Tribal Council



THE NAVAJO NATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT, one of the largest preservation agencies in the United States, has administered HPF project grants since 1990. In addition to the THPO duties it assumed in 1996, the department has numerous other responsibilities, including overseeing the Navajo Nation Museum, administering the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and rehabilitation of the Navajo Nation Council Chambers, which was recently designated a National Historic Landmark. ◀



Competitive Tribal Grants

For tribes, preserving their cultural heritage is more than just preserving historic properties. It also means preserving unique cultural traditions threatened by population mobility and by the Euro-American culture that dominates today's mass media and marketing.

Since 1990, the National Park Service has administered an annual competitive grant program open to all Federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. Competitive grant funds have been used for preservation projects aimed at specific places, documenting traditional arts and crafts, recording oral histories with elders and traditional cultural authorities, and language preservation.



THE CHICKASAW NATION was awarded \$49,500 in June 2000 to prepare working drawings, architectural plans and specifications for a restoration plan for the National Register property the Chickasaw White House. Constructed in 1895 by Douglas H. Johnston, it became known as the Chickasaw White House after he became governor in 1898. Once restoration is complete, it will serve as a regional interpretive center for Chickasaw tribal history and culture. ▲

ZUNI stewardship efforts have long included care for the ancient Pueblo of Zuni and professional archeological operations. With the help of NPS grants, the Zuni have also conducted traditional site surveys and historical research projects that have led to a historic preservation program that officially assumed THPO duties in 2001. ◀