

Fiscal Year 2024 Report

National NAGPRA Program

National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
For the period October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Published November 6, 2024

NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

National NAGPRA Program Statistics

NAGPRA At-A-Glance Fiscal Year 2024

644	notices published in the Federal Register
4	Review Committee meetings
6	allegations of failure to comply received
\$3.041	million awarded for grants
\$71,871	5 repatriation grants
\$2,969,249	34 project grants

NAGPRA notices continue to increase – the number of notices published in the Federal Register eclipsed any previous year as the largest number ever published in one year.

NAGPRA activity increased – the number of human remains that have completed the regulatory process grew by nearly 8%.

NAGPRA funding extended – \$365,880 was reserved for additional repatriation grants available until May 2025.

More NAGPRA work needed – Since 1990, the Act has required museums and Federal agencies to identify all Native American human remains. Yet, each year, additional Native American individuals are reported in inventories. Over the last 10 years, over 36,000 additional individuals have been reported in inventories.

NAGPRA Accomplishments FY 1990 – FY 2024

More than 58% (126,299) of the Native American human remains reported **have completed the NAGPRA process.**

Over 3.6 million associated funerary objects have completed the NAGPRA process.

43% of museums subject to NAGPRA have resolved rights to all Native American human remains under their possession or control.

More than 397,000 unassociated funerary objects have been published in notices.

About 63,742 other cultural items have been published in notices.

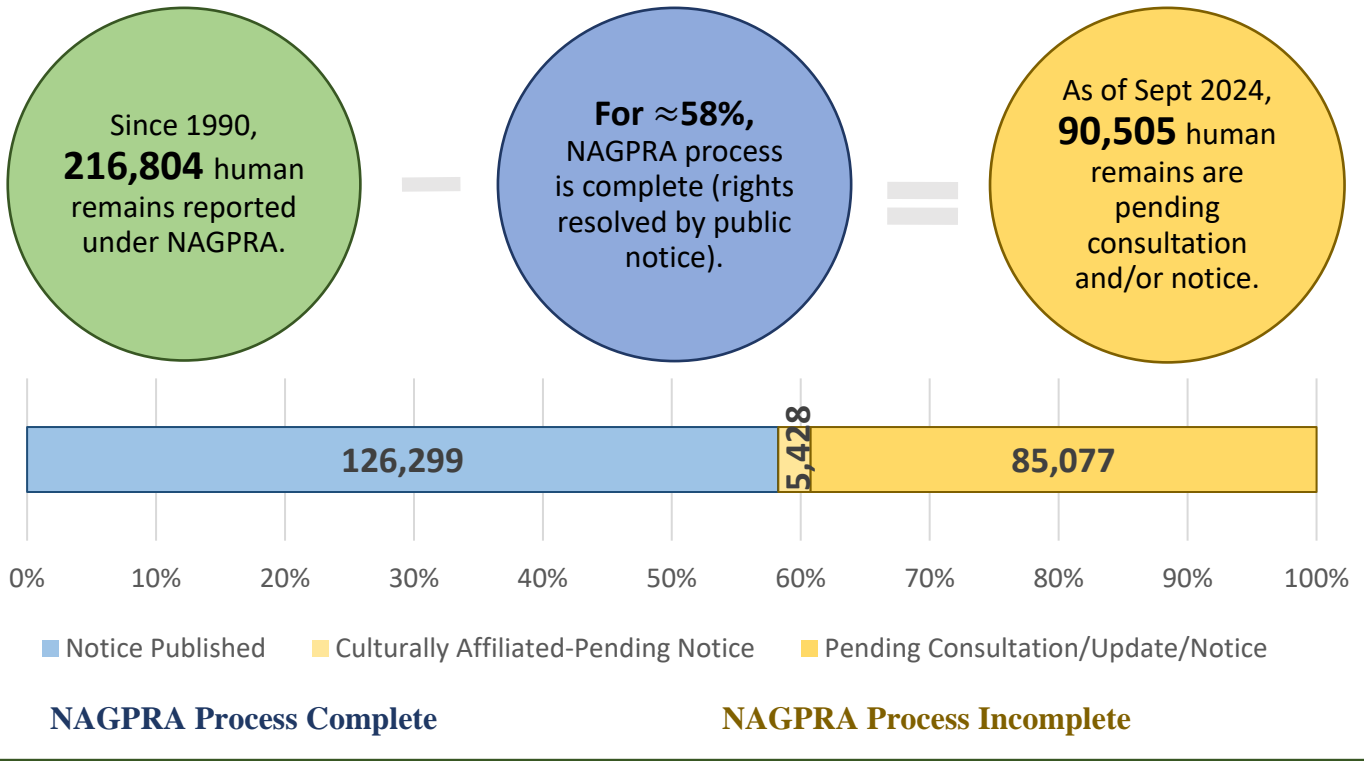
89 Review Committee meetings have been held between FY 1990-FY 2024.

\$59,111 has been collected in civil penalties for failures to comply.

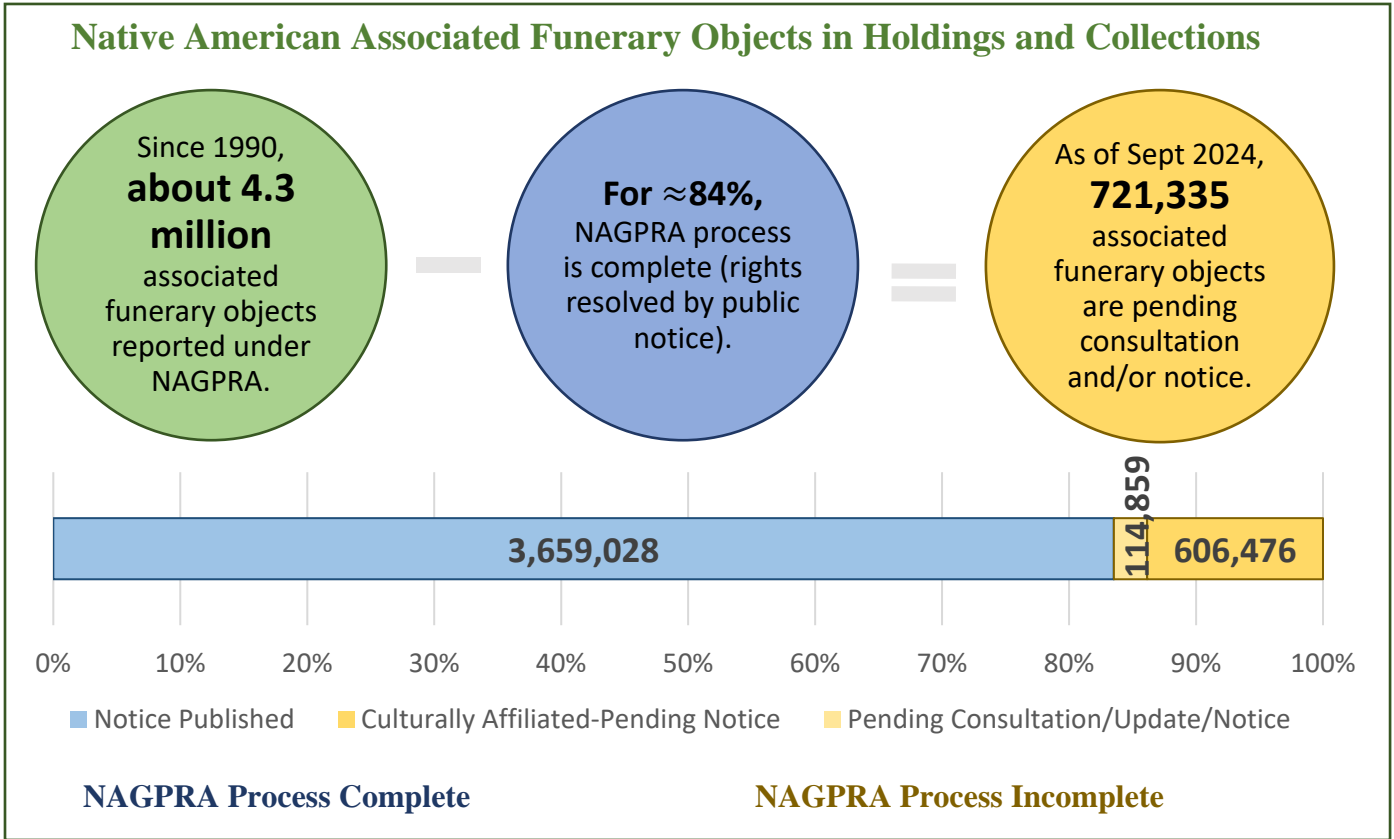
\$62 million has been awarded in NAGPRA grants.

NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

Native American Human Remains in Holdings and Collections

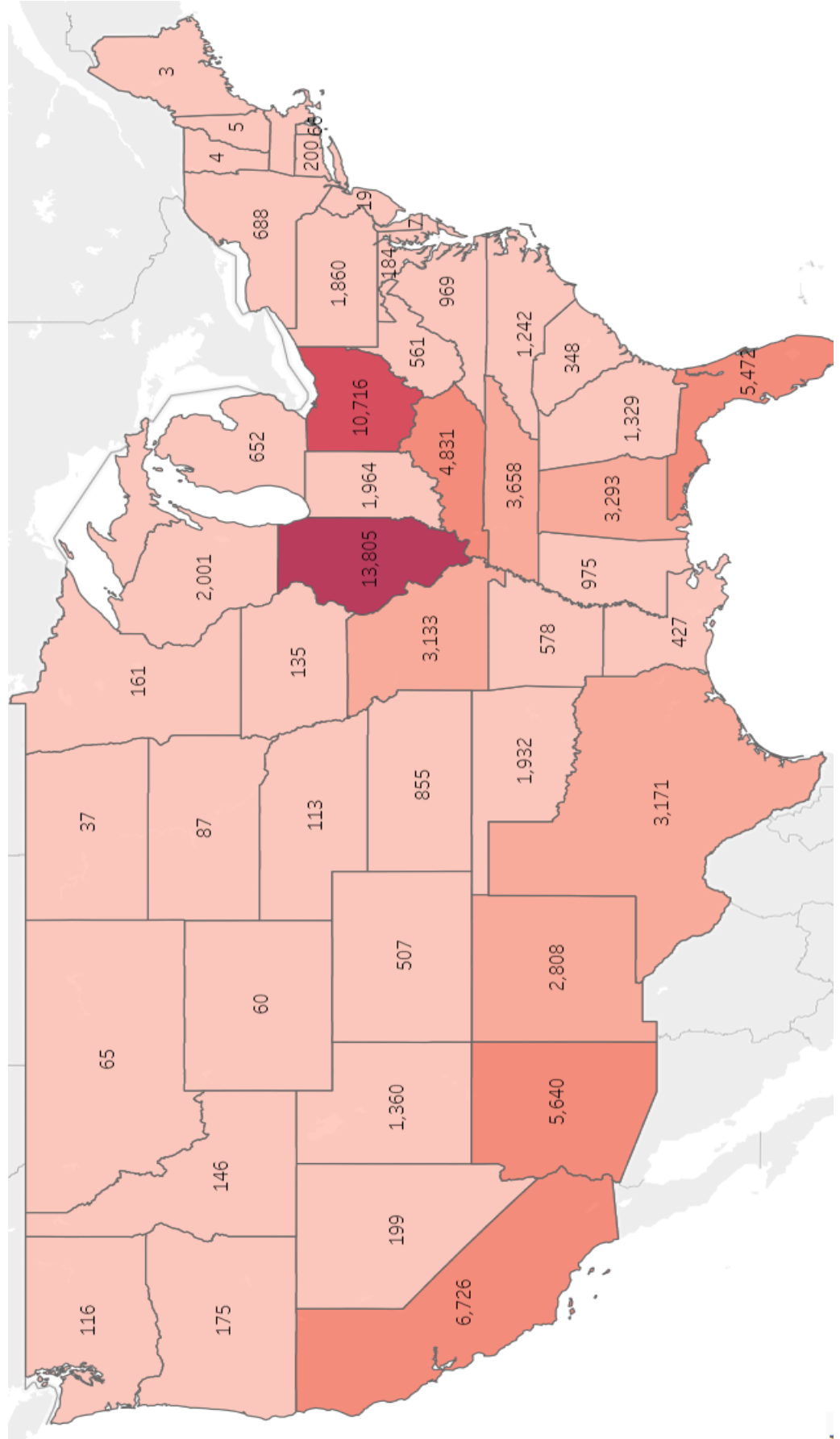


Native American Associated Funerary Objects in Holdings and Collections



NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

Native American individuals by state of removal/excavation.
Showing the **90,505** human remains in holdings and collections as of Sept 2024.



NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

Native American individuals by institution/Federal agency. 20 largest holdings or collections as of Sept 2024.

Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society)	7,147
Illinois State Museum	5,816
Harvard University	5,427
Univ. of California, Berkeley	4,794
Indiana University	4,729
Univ. of Kentucky, William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology	3,787
Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville	3,133
Univ. of Alabama Museums	2,732
Univ. of Arizona, Arizona State Museum	2,691
Univ. of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History	2,591
Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Museum of Anthropology	2,384
Center for American Archeology, Kampsville Archeological Center	1,947
Univ. of Texas at Austin, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory	1,898
American Museum of Natural History	1,773
Univ. of Oklahoma, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History	1,689
Milwaukee Public Museum	1,600
U.S. Dept. of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers	1,455
Florida Dept. of State	1,423
Field Museum	1,288
U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs	1,120

More lists available at:

https://public.tableau.com/shared/H966C37S4?:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

The [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) (NAGPRA or the Act) recognizes the rights of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations in Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. Native American human remains and cultural items subject to NAGPRA are held by museums and Federal agencies or may be removed from Federal or Tribal lands. Administrative responsibilities under the Act are assigned to the Secretary of the Interior, who delegated certain tasks to the National NAGPRA Program (Program).

This report covers Program activities related to the following delegated tasks during Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024) in the Act at 25 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.:

§ 3002: Protection on Federal or Tribal Lands

- Providing technical assistance concerning the excavation and discovery of cultural items
- Maintaining a database of Notices of Intended Disposition published by Federal agencies
- Maintaining a list of unclaimed cultural items in the custody of Federal agencies

§ 3003, 3004, & 3005: Repatriation by Museums and Federal Agencies

- Receiving inventories and summaries prepared by museums and Federal agencies
- Publishing notices in the *Federal Register* for museums and Federal agencies
- Maintaining information about inventories, summaries, notices, and repatriations

§ 3006: Review Committee

- Providing staff support and a Designated Federal Officer to the Federal advisory committee

§ 3007: Civil Penalties

- Providing staff support on allegations of museums who fail to comply with the Act

§ 3008: Grants

- Administering a grant program to assist museums, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations

§ 3011: Regulations

- Drafting and updating regulations

§ 3012: Appropriations

- Carrying out the Act using the funds appropriated

Technical Assistance

- Providing assistance to any party on any of the responsibilities under the Act

NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

§ 3002: Protection on Federal or Tribal Lands

Notices of Intended Disposition

The Program received copies of 6 Notices of Intended Disposition published in newspapers by Federal agencies, and, since 1990, 244 notices have been published in newspapers. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/NID>.

After January 12, 2024 (the effective date of the revised regulations), the Program received 23 notices of intended disposition and published a total of 21 notices in the *Federal Register*. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/Notice>.

Disposition Statements

After January 12, 2024 (the effective date of the revised regulations), the Program received copies of disposition statements following the publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*. Previously, the Program did not collect data on the transfer of human remains or cultural items following the publication of a notice in newspapers. Data entry of disposition statements is still ongoing. In coming years, the Program will report on the number of disposition statements it receives. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/Notice>.

Unclaimed Cultural Items

The Program received 1 list of unclaimed human remains and cultural items from Federal agencies. Since 2015, 22 Federal agencies have reported unclaimed human remains and cultural items. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/unclaimed.htm>.

§ 3003, 3004, & 3005: Repatriation by Museums and Federal Agencies

Native American human remains and associated funerary objects

A total of 389 museums and 109 Federal agency units report 90,505 Native American human remains in inventories of their holdings or collections. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/Inventory>.

Native American cultural items

A total of 971 museums and 644 Federal agency units have submitted summaries of cultural items in their holdings or collections. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/Summary>.

Federal Register Notices

The Program received 603 notice submissions and published a total of 623 notices this fiscal year. Since 1992, 5,470 notices have been published. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagprapublic/Home/Notice>.

Note: These totals do not include Notices of Intended Disposition which, as of January 12, 2024, are also published in the *Federal Register*. Those notices are reported in the section above.

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Museum Statements

After January 12, 2024 (the effective date of the revised regulations), the Program received copies of statements from museums with custody of a Federal agency holding or collection and with custody of other holdings or collections. Previously, the Program did not collect such statements. Data entry of these statements is still ongoing, and in future reports, the Program will report on the number of museum statements it receives. The deadline for museums to submit these statements is January 13, 2025. See [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/part-10/section-10.8#p-10.8\(c\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/part-10/section-10.8#p-10.8(c)) and [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/part-10/section-10.8#p-10.8\(d\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/part-10/section-10.8#p-10.8(d)).

Repatriation Statements

After January 12, 2024 (the effective date of the revised regulations), the Program received copies of repatriation statements following the publication of a notice in the *Federal Register*. Previously and since 2011, the Secretary of the Interior required Federal agencies to submit data annually on repatriations. With the change in the regulatory requirements this year, the Program will no longer report separately on individual Federal agency's cumulative repatriation data. Previously, the Program did not collect data on the transfer of human remains or cultural items from museums. Data entry of repatriation statements is still ongoing, and in future reports, the Program will report on the number of repatriation statements it receives. See <https://apps.cr.nps.gov/nagrapublic/Home/Notice>.

§3006: Review Committee

Meetings

The Review Committee held 4 public meetings this fiscal year. Since 1992, the Review Committee has held 89 public meetings. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/review-committee.htm>.

Reports

Since 1992, the Review Committee has completed 24 reports to Congress regarding progress made, and any barriers encountered, in implementing the Act. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/reports-to-congress.htm>.

Recommendations

Since 1992, the Review Committee has heard and acted on 118 requests for human remains with no cultural affiliation. Of these requests, 115 were requests for particular sets of human remains, and 3 were requests to consider and approve a state process. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/disposition-recommendations.htm>.

Since 1992, the Review Committee has heard and acted on 22 requests for findings of fact or resolutions of disputes. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/findings-of-fact-recommendations.htm>.

§3007: Civil Penalties

Allegations and Findings

The Program received 6 letters alleging that a museum failed to comply with the Act. Since 1996, the Program has received 141 unique allegations of failure to comply. The Assistant Secretary for Fish and

NAGPRA in Fiscal Year 2024

Wildlife and Parks issued two notices of no failure to comply this fiscal year, for a total of 39 allegations that were not substantiated. The Assistant Secretary has issued a total of 23 notices of failure to comply (see Table 2). A total of six allegations were not referred for investigation after an initial evaluation, and 73 allegations are still pending (see Table 3). The Assistant Secretary may exercise discretion to investigate allegations received. Since 2004, the civil penalties program has operated under a procedure where it evaluates allegations prior to initiating an investigation. After January 12, 2024 (the effective date of the revised regulations), the regulations describe the nature of this evaluation and require it be completed within 90 days of receiving an allegation. To ensure transparency in reporting civil penalty statistics, all allegations received are reported and beginning in fiscal year 2023, those allegations that are, after an evaluation, not referred for further investigation are reported as “Declined to investigate.”

Table 1: Allegations Results as of Sept 30, 2024

Allegation Result – Status	Number of allegations
Not substantiated – No failure to comply	39
Declined to investigate	6
Substantiated – Failure to comply (see Table 2)	23
Pending (see Table 3)	73
Total	141

Table 2: Allegations Substantiated as of Sept 30, 2024

Museum	Penalty Amount
Andover Newton Theological Seminary	\$4,900.00
Bernice P. Bishop Museum (2010)	Not appropriate
Bernice P. Bishop Museum (2008)	Settlement (\$13,500.00)*
City of Harrisburg	\$9,820.00
East Carolina Univ.	\$3,750.00
Fremont County Coroner	Settlement without payment
Hamilton County Parks and Recreation	\$6,533.00
Harvard University Art Museums	Not appropriate
Marshall University	\$4,999.00
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art	Not appropriate
Northern Illinois Univ.	\$2,500.00
Oregon State Univ.	Not appropriate
Pacific Lutheran Univ.	Not appropriate
Pierce College	\$3,750.00
Safety Harbor Museum of Natural History	\$439.34
St. Joseph Museums, Inc. (2007)	\$1,420.00
St. Joseph Museums, Inc. (2016)	Pending petition**
St. Martin's Waynick Museum	Not appropriate
Texas Parks and Wildlife	\$5,000.00
Univ. of California, Berkeley (2013)	Settlement without payment
Univ. of California, Berkeley (2013)	Settlement without payment
Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst	Not appropriate
Univ. of Puget Sound	\$2,500.00
Total	\$59,111.34

* Payment through settlement, not penalty assessment.

** Penalty assessed, but not yet paid. Pending a petition for relief.

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Table 3: Allegations Pending as of Sept 30, 2024

Evaluation Result – Status	Number of allegations
Active investigation	13
Investigation complete, pending review and approval	7
Under Program review (received prior to 1/12/2024)	53

§3008: Grants

Awards to Indian Tribes and Museums

The Program awarded \$3 million in grants to 13 Indian Tribes and 21 museums. Since 1994, over \$62 million has been awarded. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/previously-awarded-grants.htm>.

§3011: Regulations

On December 12, 2023, the Department of the Interior published a final rule revising the NAGPRA regulations. See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/regulations.htm>.

§3012: Appropriations

Program Budget

(in thousands of dollars)

NAGPRA Grants	\$ 3,407
Program administration	\$ 1,086
Grants administration	\$ 225
Total appropriations/authorizations	\$ 4,718

Grants Awarded

Project Grants	\$ 2,969
Repatriation Grants	\$ 72
Reserved for repatriation grants	\$ 366
Operational Expenses	
Personnel	\$ 698
Grants administration	\$ 225
Publication (<i>Federal Register</i>)	\$ 243
Contractors	\$ 127
Review Committee stipends	\$ 7
Travel (Review Committee)	\$ 0
Travel (Program staff)	\$ 9
Equipment, supplies, other	\$ 2
Total expenditures	\$ 4,718

Technical Assistance

The Program corresponded with over 1,000 people at nagpra_info@nps.gov and over 200 phone calls to 202-354-2201. In addition, each staff member responded to direct inquiries. This does not include correspondence on notices, which accounts for another 1,000 emails this year. Much of the email and phone calls results in referrals to information on the Program website <https://www.nps.gov/nagpra>. Analytics for the website show 267,727 pageviews and 12,084 unique download events. The top pages visited were the home page, regulations page, compliance page, getting started page, and frequently asked questions page. Since 2012, the Program has hosted <https://www.youtube.com/@NationalNAGPRA>. This fiscal year, the channel received over 12,300 views and 830 subscribers.

National NAGPRA Program

National Park Service



202-354-2201



nagpra_info@nps.gov