

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

Ensuring Respect for Tribal Heritage

March 2008

STATUS

The FY2009 President's budget proposes \$3.941 million for Tribes, which is a 38% decrease from the FY2008 enacted amount of \$6.4 million. The FY2008 increase supported 10 new THPO programs and a \$2,000-\$3,000 increase per THPO for the 66 programs operating in FY2007. The FY2008 average per-officer is \$75,267, which is a decrease from FY1996 when the program was first enacted. Adequate funding must be provided for THPOs to build capacity and program sustainability, especially as more Indian Tribes establish THPOs each year.

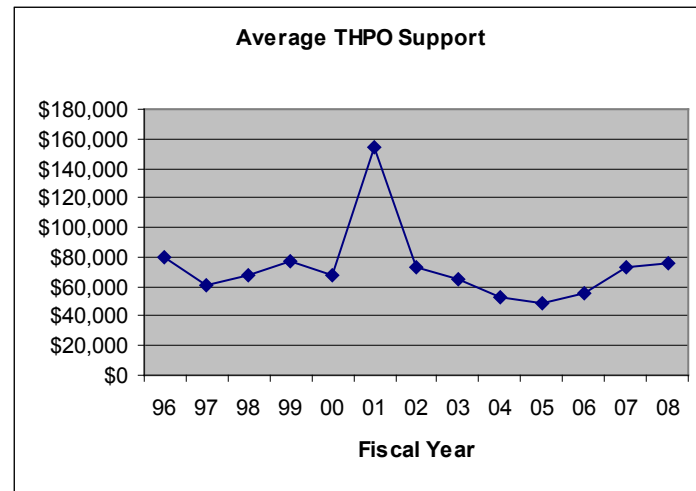
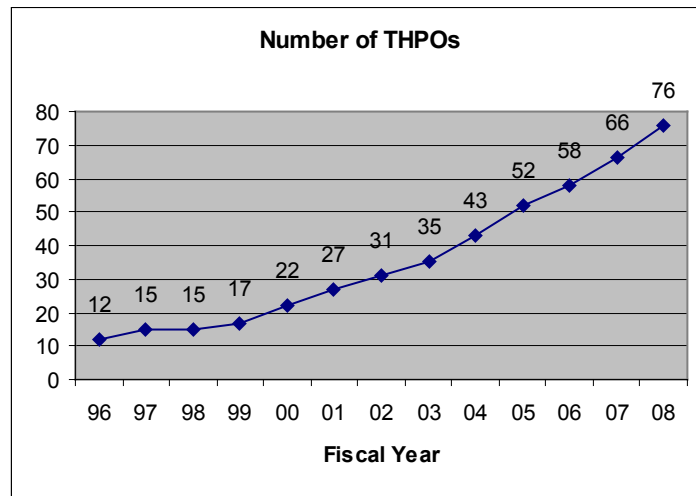
REQUEST

\$20 million for Tribal Line that supports both the THPOs and a tribal competitive grant program, both of national significance in Indian country.

BACKGROUND

Originally funded in FY1996 through authorization within the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, the THPO program started with 12 tribal governments each receiving an average award of \$79,875. The NPS and NATHPO estimate that there will be at least 80 THPOs seeking funding in FY2009. Without an increase in FY2009 over last year's funding level, each THPO program will be asked to perform important federal compliance work with less funds, which to date have barely been enough to fund one staff person, let alone a program.

An investment of \$20 million in FY2009 for THPOs through the Department of the Interior Appropriations bill will be multiplied many times over. Already, most THPOs match every federal dollar 3 to 1. Adequate funding is required to compensate for decades of no funding for tribal programs and will help to stabilize funding for all THPOs, as well as accommodate new THPOs at a reasonable base level of support.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Association
of Tribal Historic
Preservation Officers
P.O. Box 19189
Washington, DC 20036-
9189
tel: (202) 628-8476
fax: (202) 628-2241
www.nathpo.org
info@nathpo.org