

Congressional Support for Historic Preservation in 2009

National-level partnering preservation organizations respectfully request improvements to federal-level preservation funding and incentives for historic preservation activities in 2009, including: incentives for historic home rehabilitation, improved incentives for commercial historic rehabilitation activity, funding for historic preservation projects, and adequate funding for mandated historic preservation programs.

Preserve America: Support for Community Economic Development and Education with Historic Resources

Status

The continuing resolution now funding the federal government supports the Preserve America program at \$7.383 million, the FY2008 enacted level. The House of Representatives approved \$5 million for the program in its FY2009 omnibus package. The Senate has delayed its decision to potentially zero out funding for Preserve America until March 10th through a short-term continuing resolution.

Request

Support \$10,000,000 for the Preserve America grant program.

Background

As of February 26, 2009, a total of 910 communities and neighborhoods in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have applied to become Preserve America Communities. A total of 736 communities and neighborhoods have been recognized as Preserve America Communities to date. Seventeen of the designated communities are neighborhoods within large cities - those with populations of 200,000 or higher. Also among the designated communities are 67 counties and three tribal communities.

Administered by the National Park Service, approximately \$5 million annually was awarded in FY

2006 and 2007, totaling 140 grants in 40 states. Just under \$7.5 million was available for FY 2008. Grant amounts range from \$20,000-\$150,000 with a required 1:1 match.

Preserve America grants support projects in five categories: research and documentation, planning, interpretation and education, marketing, and training. The program does not fund bricks-and-mortar projects but rather complements the Save America's Treasures grant program by helping local communities develop sustainable resource management strategies and sound business practices for the continued preservation and use of heritage assets. Successful projects feature public-private partnerships and serve as models to communities nationwide for work in heritage tourism, historic preservation, education, and economic development.

Funded activities have included rural or downtown survey and documentation projects; wayfinding, signage, and interpretive guides; regional tourism planning and development initiatives; marketing and promotion plans; and hospitality and docent training. Eligible applicants include designated Preserve America Communities; State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments that are in the process of applying for Preserve America Community designation.

	<i>FY06 Enacted</i>	<i>FY07 CR Final Level</i>	<i>FY'08 Enacted Levels **</i>	<i>FY'09 Proposed Budget</i>	<i>FY'09 House Markup Level</i>	<i>FY'09 Omnibus Levels</i>
Preserve America	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$7.383 *	\$10	\$5.0	\$0

* Funded in National Recreation budget within Interior (not included within HPF total)

** Includes .056% across-the-board cut in all discretionary accounts

Preservation is Sustainability.