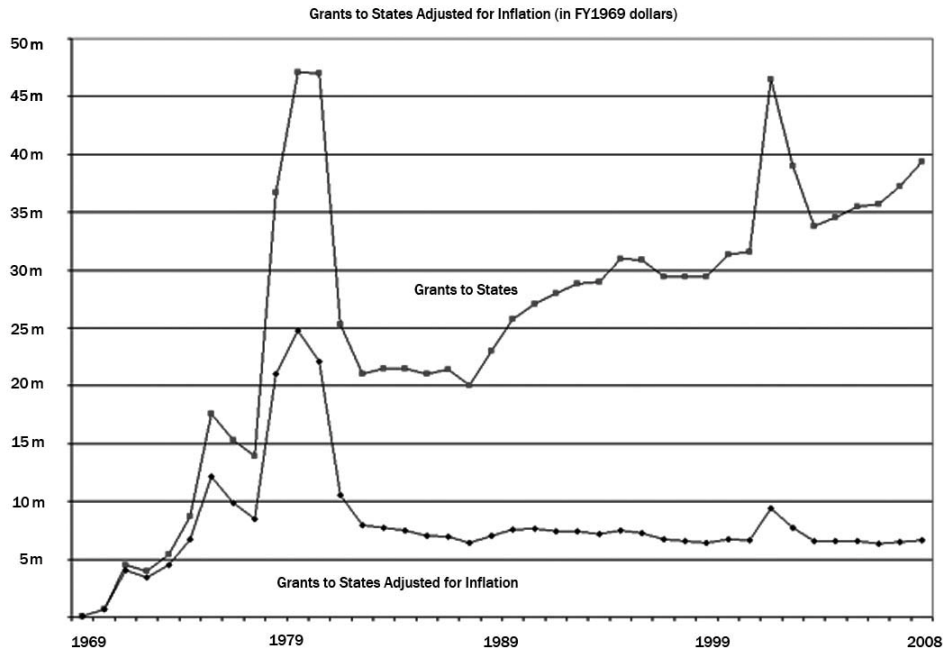


# Congressional Support for Historic Preservation in 2009

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.

## Funding for State Historic Preservation Officers: Support the Foundation of American Historic Preservation



### Status

State Historic Preservation Offices are currently operating under FY08 funding level of \$39.376 million. The House of Representatives increased this level to \$42.5 million in their FY2009 omnibus funding package.

### Request

\$50 million for identification, evaluation and protection of America's historic places through the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)

### Background

The National Historic Preservation Act (16 U. S. C. 470) establishes the foundation of America's historic preservation program within the Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In a long-standing partnership, those agencies set the standards. The SHPOs do the work: finding America's historic places, making nominations to the National Register, reviewing impacts of federal projects, providing assistance to developers seeking a rehabilitation tax credit, creating alliances with local government preservation commissions, and conducting preservation education and planning.

The Preservation Act mandate is broad and federal funding has not kept pace with the demands. Federal financial support needs to grow to match the mission requirements. Fifty million will do the job!

The Historic Preservation Fund provides the monies needed to carry out the Preservation Act. Annually, \$150 million from the sale of off shore oil leases is deposited in the Fund. Congress appropriates money from the Fund to carry out the Preservation Act through SHPOs.

A \$50 million appropriation, an increase over recent funding (\$39 million), will enable SHPOs to address the entire mission of the Preservation Act, addressing long un-met preservation needs in addition to responding to external demands for comments. Those un-met needs include historic site survey and digitization of the results for public and agency use and restoration grants for the 1 million + historic places that have local, state and regional significance but may not be not in the elite National Historic Landmark category.

Both the Office of Management and Budget and the well-respected National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) affirm that the SHPOs use their funding efficiently and effectively. In addition, NAPA recommended increased funding to enable SHPOs to meet the needs of today. (Back to the Future: A Review of the National Historic Preservation Program, National Academy of Public Administration, 2007.)

Preservation is Sustainability.