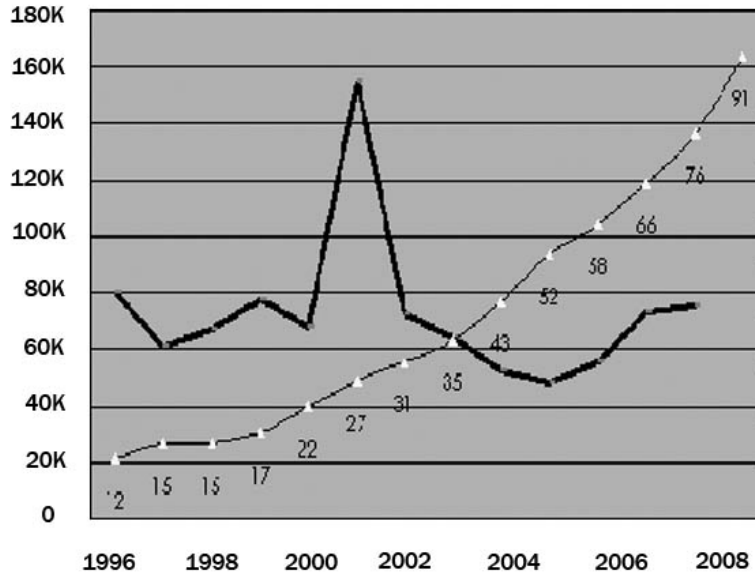


Congressional Support for Historic Preservation in 2009

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 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers: Respect for America's Traditional Cultures

THPO Funding History:
Average Size of Tribal Grants Compared with Number of THPO Offices



Background

Originally funded in FY1996 through authorization contained in Section 101(d) of the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act, P.L. 102-575 (16 U.S.C. § 470), the THPO program started with 12 tribal governments each receiving an average award of \$79,875. In FY2009, the NPS has stated that there will be 16 new THPOs – to be added to the existing 76 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.**

Status

The continuing resolution extending FY2008 enacted funding levels supports Tribal Preservation Offices at \$6.4 million. The House of Representatives voted on a FY2009 omnibus package that would increase this amount to \$7 million in FY2009.

Request

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

Even though FY2008 was the highest level of support for tribal preservation, it was only a \$2,000-\$3,000 increase per THPO for the 66 existing programs in operating in FY2007. The average THPO support in FY2008 is \$75,267, which is still less than the average support in the first year of federal support. It is imperative that adequate funding be provided for THPO capacity building and program sustainability, especially as more Indian Tribes become THPOs each year.

For the past three years, the administration has requested \$3.941 million for Tribal line item (FY2007, FY2008, and FY2009) – reflects level funding to the FY2006.

For the past three years, NATHPO has worked successfully in achieving increases over the administration's request. Tribal line item was increased to \$5.4 million (FY2007); and \$6.39 million (FY2008). For FY2009, the House has requested \$7 million (administration requested \$3.941 million).

Preservation is Sustainability.

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