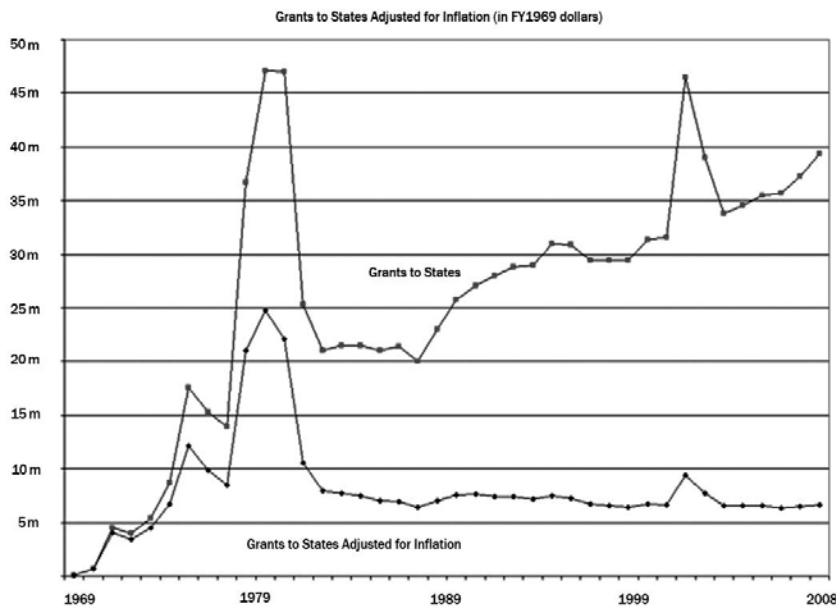


Funding for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs): Support the Foundation of American Historic Preservation



Our Request:

1. \$50 million for protection of America's historic places through the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO's)

2. \$5 million for a SHPO survey and digitization competitive grant program

The National Historic Preservation Act (16 U. S. C. 470) established the Federal-State-Local foundation of America's historic preservation program. While the Department of the Interior and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation set the policy, SHPOs carry out the work of the federal government in the States: finding America's historic places, making nominations to the National Register, reviewing impacts of federal projects (Section 106), providing assistance to developers seeking a rehabilitation tax credit, creating alliances with local government preservation commissions, and conducting preservation education and planning.

The Historic Preservation Fund provides the monies needed to carry out the Preservation Act. Annually, \$150 million is deposited into the Fund from the sale of off shore oil and gas leases. Congress appropriates money from the Fund to carry out the Preservation Act through SHPOs. In FY2010, SHPOs were awarded \$46.5 million. As the chart above clearly illustrates, even this modest increase from the previous year's \$42.5 million allocation represents a dramatic reduction in support when factoring for inflation.

What is at stake?

- Federal funding for the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has not kept pace with the demands of inflation, hindering the ability of State offices to carry out their broad mandates. In fact, increased project load as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act threatens to cause delays in project approval. Other mandated areas, such as National Register nominations, suffer as the SHPO reassign staff to meet ARRA review deadlines. A modest increase will help speed ARRA projects and our nation's economic recovery!
- \$50 million is the minimal amount needed to sustain current programs. Even at this amount, mandated activities such as national register nominations will continue to languish.
- Providing \$5 million for a SHPO survey and digitization competitive grant program will allow states to continue finding America's historic treasures and converting paper files, maps, and photographs to electronic databases and geographic information system files. Digital records benefit a multitude of constituencies, from individuals and communities devastated by natural disasters, to state and federal agency funded projects, private and public development projects, and SHPOs.
- Both the Office of Management and Budget and the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) affirm that SHPOs use their funding efficiently and effectively. In their 2007 report "Back to the Future: A Review of the National Historic Preservation Program" NAPA recommended increased funding to enable SHPOs to meet the needs of today.