

Historic Preservation Fund Appropriations FY 2006 for **State Historic Preservation Offices**

Restore Funding to America's Heritage Resources

Status:

On February 7, 2005, President Bush delivered his FY 2006 budget proposal to Congress. The Administration request calls for level funding for the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) — the foundation of the national preservation program. This level represents a decrease of some 24% since FY 2001. At a time when local governments, citizens and the private sector are increasingly turning to SHPOs for leadership and assistance, state preservation offices are curtailing the very programs that stimulate historic preservation, revitalize communities, leverage private investment, and promote heritage tourism.

Funding for State Historic Preservation Offices (in millions of dollars):

FY01	FY02	FY03	FY 04	FY 05	FY06 Admin	FY 06 Request
46.6	39	33.7	34.5	35.4	35.4	50

The Request:

An investment of \$50 million in FY 2006 to the State Historic Preservation Offices through the Department of Interior Appropriations Bill will be multiplied many times over. Indeed, a recent university sponsored study indicates that just \$1 in federal preservation funding returns \$64 in private investment. The proven catalytic effect of historic preservation makes a funding increase to state preservation offices sound economic sense.

Below is a detailed summary of how an increase to the State Historic Preservation Offices can leverage significant private investment in the rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings, build private-public partnerships to restore and revitalize neighborhoods, facilitate more timely and effective state-level review of federal projects, and ensure the protection of hundreds of historic structures and sites.

The application of \$50 million in FY 2006 - What SHPOs will do with increased funding:

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) established a set of incentives and programs supported by the Historic Preservation Fund to foster local decision making and redirect private investment to existing resources. NHPA charged State Historic Preservation Offices with carrying out the nation's historic preservation program for federal government.

For example, SHPOs work closely with the private sector to encourage and support reinvestment in historic resources through use of the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. SHPOs provide technical assistance and expertise to local officials and community groups seeking to restore and promote their unique neighborhood assets. SHPOs are the first place a citizen turns when trying to save a local landmark. Yet, without adequate funding, SHPOs cannot contribute fully toward achieving our nation's historic resource protection objectives. A \$50 million appropriation would ensure that SHPOs are able to deliver the programs and services that give citizens what they need to protect our historic heritage, rebuild America and create healthful and attractive communities for themselves and their children.

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National Historic Preservation Act Program Area	Program Accomplishments at a \$50 million appropriation in FY 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4 billion private investment in FY 2005 – up 33% from FY 2004 • 1,400 new projects approved – up 10% from FY 2005 • Expedited review and certification • Marketing of credit through education and outreach • Private sector training through workshops • Increased consultation with developers • More site visits and advice to owners and developers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants-in-Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 million in direct project funding – up from \$0 in FY 2005 • Restoration of historic places important to local citizens • Economic stimulus for community revitalization • Increased job creation using skilled workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 106 reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite reviews • More site visits and hands-on assistance to agencies and applicants • Conduct needed training for agencies and applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Local Government assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of CLGs by 33% – to total of 1,850 CLGs • \$7 million in pass-through grants from SHPOs to local communities, doubles current level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve America Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist local governments with Preserve America program • Promote the initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Register and historic site survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% increase in National Register listings • Re-initiate historic resource identification projects • Assist applicants in researching and completing nominations • Accelerate digitization of historic site information to benefit researchers and project planners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American history education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish documentation on historic sites • Create teacher guides that use local landmarks to teach history
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augment assistance to localities in utilizing their historic resources as heritage tourism assets