

FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

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LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

FUNDING FOR TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES

Support Stewardship of Traditional Tribal Culture and Resources

February 2007

STATUS

On February 5, 2007, President Bush delivered his FY2008 budget proposal to Congress. The Administration recommends level funding with FY2006's appropriation for the Tribal line item of the Historic Preservation Fund. This line item supports the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and a tribal competitive grant program, and National Park Service administrative costs.

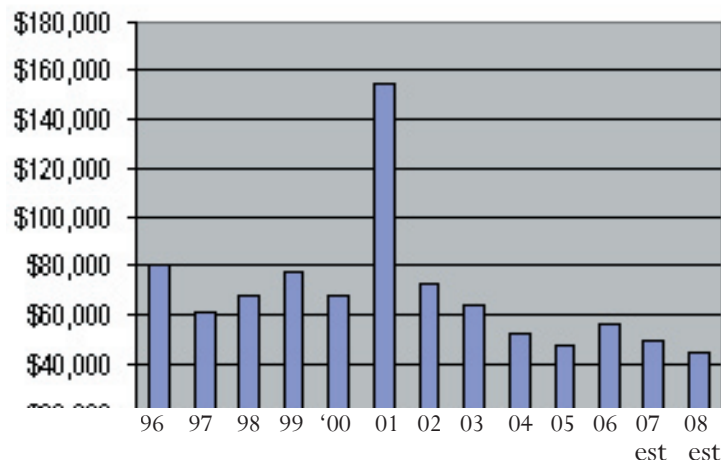
For the FY2007 budget cycle, the National Park Service has accepted nine (9) new tribal programs for a total of 66 THPOs, but no additional funds to support these new programs have been added to the overall program. Without additional funds in FY2007, the pre-existing 57 tribal programs in FY2006 will each take an approximate 14 percent reduction to enable the addition of nine new tribal programs. This reduction would be in addition to a funding cut of over 50% (from FY2001 to FY2002), and less drastic cuts for each subsequent years.

Originally funded in 1996 through authorization contained in Section 101(d)(2) 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. The NPS and NATHPO estimate that there will be at least 73 THPOs seeking funding in FY2008. Without an increase in FY2008, each THPO program will be asked to perform important federal compliance work with an average grant of less than \$45,000. That level is not enough to fund one staff person, let alone a program.

REQUEST

An investment of \$12 million in FY2008 for the Tribal line item through the Department of the Interior Appropriations bill will be multiplied many times over. Already, most THPOs match every federal dollar 3 to 1. Adequate funding is required to compensate for decades of no funding for tribal programs and will help to stabilize funding for all THPOs, as well as accommodate new THPOs at a reasonable base level of support.

Average Per THPO Appropriation 1996-2008



The National Historic Preservation Act and its resulting cultural, educational, and economic benefits over the past 40 years, have been vital to fostering a preservation ethic across the nation.