Established in 1976, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has helped to recognize, save, revitalize, and protect America's historic places. For more than forty years it has empowered states and local entities to preserve the buildings and sites that tell their community's stories.

The HPF allocates a small percentage of revenue from federal offshore drilling (non-tax dollars) towards identifying, protecting, and utilizing historic resources. States are required to match at least 40 percent of the funding that they receive from the HPF.

The combined funds allow states and tribes to carry out their federally-mandated duties of protecting our historic places and evaluating the impact of federal projects upon them.

The HPF has been used to educate people of all ages, build community pride, and revitalize historic sites. It has also aided in the creation of jobs and strengthened state and local economies.

CO-SPONSORS NEEDED

CO-SPONSOR THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACT (H.R. 6589)

- Permanently authorizes funding for the HPF.
- Increases authorization from $150 million to $300 million annually.
- Ensures $300 million is appropriated for the intended purpose each year.

(Senate version forthcoming)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

HPF OVERVIEW

- Established in 1976, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has helped to recognize, save, revitalize, and protect America’s historic places. For more than forty years it has empowered states and local entities to preserve the buildings and sites that tell their community’s stories.

- The HPF allocates a small percentage of revenue from federal offshore drilling (non-tax dollars) towards identifying, protecting, and utilizing historic resources. States are required to match at least 40 percent of the funding that they receive from the HPF.

- The combined funds allow states and tribes to carry out their federally-mandated duties of protecting our historic places and evaluating the impact of federal projects upon them.

- The HPF has been used to educate people of all ages, build community pride, and revitalize historic sites. It has also aided in the creation of jobs and strengthened state and local economies.

ENHANCING THE HPF IS LONG OVERDUE

- This would be the first increase to the HPF’s authorized funding level since the program's inception in 1976.

- During the FY22 appropriations process the President’s proposal, the House Interior Appropriations bill, and the draft Senate Interior Appropriations bill all exceeded the HPF’s previously authorized level of $150 million, underscoring the need for an increased authorization.

- State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices are charged with carrying out responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. This increased & reliable funding will boost capacity & efficiency among those offices and reduce the processing time for agency reviews.

- The bipartisan infrastructure bill passed by Congress and signed into law creates additional work for SHPOs/THPOs to process federally mandated reviews, but there was no inclusion of funding necessary to accomplish increasing demands.

- Funding set aside for HPF has never been fully appropriated, despite the money being available for that purpose. As of the start of FY 2022, 3.4 billion dollars was available in the Historic Preservation Fund.

- The HPF provides millions of dollars in pass-through grants to local communities for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, to fund survey and documentation projects, and provide resources to strengthen local communities.