SHPO RESPONSIBILITIES

State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) were established in 1966 by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to administer federal historic preservation programs at the state and local levels. Under this partnership with the federal government, SHPOs are responsible for locating and documenting America’s historic places, making nominations to the National Register, providing assistance on historic tax credit (HTC) projects, reviewing impacts of federal projects, working with local governments, and conducting preservation education and planning.

These efforts help to revitalize communities, encourage heritage tourism, increase economic development, and bring state and local input into the federal decision-making process.

QUANTIFYING THE NEED

- Increases in SHPO apportionments have not kept pace with the overall increase in the HPF
- HPF funding has been outpaced by the inflation rate, negatively impacting the amount of funds available for identification, protection, and promotion of historic resources
- Due to 2023 changes to the SHPO apportionment formula, 23 states did not see an increase in funding from FY22 to FY23 & flat funding is anticipated for SHPOs for FY24
- The addition of $500 billion in infrastructure spending increases SHPO workload
- SHPOs face challenges to recruit & retain qualified staff due to uncompetitive salaries
- States are required to match 40% of the money they receive from the HPF
- 10% of SHPO HPF funding is passed through 2k CLGs nationwide
- More than 1 million Americans live in National Register homes or districts in virtually every county