



TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES

THPOs ARE GROWING IN NUMBER, MAKING APPROPRIATE FUNDING CRUCIAL TO THEIR SUCCESS

[Directory of THPOs listed by State](#)

THE ROLE OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

THPOs are officials designated by federally recognized Tribal governments to protect culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance.

THPOs assume the duties of State HPOs on Tribal land, grounded in self-determination, traditional knowledge, and cultural values. Project reviews include Tribal schools, roads, health clinics & housing.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Connections to cultural heritage sustain the health and vitality of Native peoples, helping heal generational trauma. THPOs also complete required reviews for energy and infrastructure development.

As the number of Tribes with a THPO increases, the amount of funding must begin to keep pace: in 1996, 12 tribes received an avg of \$80,000 each; in 2022, 200 tribes received an average of \$77,000 each. In 2023, there was finally an increase to more than \$100k each, which we hope to build on.

FY 24 REQUEST: \$34 MILLION

TO CARRY OUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT. THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE 2013 TOTAL THPOs AN AVERAGE OF \$160,000 TO RUN THEIR PROGRAMS, WHICH CREATE JOBS, GENERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND SPUR COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

WHAT DO THPOs DO?

- Work with law enforcement to apprehend and prosecute looters of ancestral remains and sacred objects;
- First responders when a sacred site is threatened or Native ancestors are disturbed by development;
- Create their Tribe's oral history programs and operate Tribal museums and cultural centers;
- Locate, survey, record and maintain inventories of Tribal historic resources;
- Review federal projects for their impact on Tribal historic resources;
- Nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places; and
- Lead revitalization of cultural traditions and native languages.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

For more information, please visit www.nathpo.org

THPO