

# The Historic Preservation Fund



Since 1977, the **Historic Preservation Fund Program** has provided more than \$2 billion to state historic preservation offices like the DHPA, as well as federally recognized tribes, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

## **Not your tax dollars at work!**

The money appropriated for the Historic Preservation Fund does not come from state or federal tax revenue, but from a dedicated federal trust fund. Energy companies must secure leases from the federal government to explore and drill for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf, and a portion of that lease revenue goes into the trust fund. This arrangement mitigates the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources through preservation of irreplaceable cultural resources.

## **What is the HPF Program?**

Administered by the National Park Service, the Historic Preservation Fund is a family of big and small grant programs, some permanent and some temporary, with changing funding levels in most years. Together, they aid specific preservation agencies, assist disaster recovery efforts, and target certain project topics, historic resource categories, and emerging issues. Together these programs provide preservation offices with funding for operational needs, award competitively selected grants to important local projects, preserve our heritage for future generations, and promote economic development through preservation activities.

In recent years, the HPF has included funding for these programs:

- Annual Formula Grants to State Historic Preservation Offices (non-competitive).
- Annual Formula Grants to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (non-competitive).
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program (competitive).
- Save America's Treasures Grant Program (competitive).
- Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program (competitive).
- African American Civil Rights Grant Program (competitive).
- History of Equal Rights Grant Program (competitive).
- Semi-quincentennial Grant Program (competitive).
- Underrepresented Communities Grant Program (competitive).
- Tribal Heritage Grants Program (competitive).
- Disaster Recovery Grants; and
- Congressionally Directed Spending for earmarked projects.

## The HPF at work for Hoosiers

Here are examples of five different HPF grant programs that have assisted preservation activities in Indiana.

### Annual formula grants to State Historic Preservation Office:

Indiana's State Historic Preservation Office is the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (DHPA). From its first HPF award in the 1970s through 2024, the DHPA has received five decades of annual federal preservation assistance totaling **\$32.8 million**. The DHPA's annual HPF award for 2024 was **\$1,196,472**. To qualify for HPF annual formula grants, the DHPA must continue to carry out various federal preservation duties mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act. These federal duties comprise roughly half the workload of the DHPA staff, so the office uses about 45% of these funds each year to pay for staffing and certain in-house expenses.

The majority of Indiana's HPF award each year is reserved for a competitive matching grant program to assist local preservation projects. In the last 25 years, DHPA has awarded \$13.7M of HPF grants to assist more than 500 local projects while grant recipients provided an additional \$15.7M in matching funds. This combined \$29M investment achieved the following:

- **173** rehabilitation projects made significant repairs at National Register-listed buildings and structures statewide
- **118** education projects hosted preservation-focused workshops, training events, and conferences for adults and youth
- **81** nomination projects added more than 13,500 Hoosier properties to the National Register of Historic Places
- **73** archaeological surveys covered 20,600 square acres and documented more than 3,700 newly identified sites
- **52** planning projects produced historic structure reports, cultural landscape reports, and rehab planning documents for historic properties
- **31** countywide historic surveys covered 11,400 square miles and documented over 60,000 historic sites and structures; and
- Additional education projects produced walking tour brochures, historic district guidelines, and other local publications, and hosted a few internships to train the preservation leaders of tomorrow.

Save America's Treasures (SAT) Grant Program:

The U.S. Navy ship currently docked in Evansville is the LST-325, a landing ship from World War II that put tanks and other vehicles ashore during the invasions of Sicily and Italy and the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Nearly two-thirds of these critically important vessels were built away from the coasts at "cornfield shipyards" along major rivers in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. The non-profit USS LST Ship Memorial, Inc. acquired this vessel in 2000, and received a **\$250,000** Save America's Treasures grant in 2010 to assist with needed repairs to the hull and ballast tanks. This museum ship is open to the public and helps tell the story of Evansville's important wartime contributions to Allied victory and its shipyard that built more LSTs than any other. LST-325 is the only one that is still operational out of 1,051 that were built from 1942 to 1945.

Indiana has received 14 competitive grants from the SAT Program totaling more than **\$4.7 million**. Besides LST-325, these awards have assisted rehabilitation of significant historic resources like the Cannelton Cotton Mill, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum, Eleutherian College near Madison, Butler Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, and Frank Lloyd Wright's John and Catherine Christian House "Samara" in West Lafayette.

Preserve America Grant Program (2006-2010):

Native American earthworks took many forms, including mounds, enclosures, and groupings known as complexes. Most earthworks in Indiana were built in the period from about 250 BC to AD 1400. Unfortunately, all of these fragile resources are negatively impacted or have already been damaged by natural forces, farming practices, looting, and development. The DHPA received a grant of **\$180,454** in 2010 to conduct archival research and compile the existing information, records, and reports about more than 2,100 separate earthworks throughout the state. This research resulted in a database of site data, historical information, and archaeological records, and a complete bibliography of sources. These tools are an important aid to future research, preparation of National Register nominations, resource protection, and interpretation of earthworks on public lands.



***LST-325, Vanderburgh County***



***Windsor Mound, Randolph County***

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program:

Indiana Landmarks received a **\$650,000** grant in 2022 for rehabilitation of about eight commercial buildings in Attica's downtown National Register Historic District. Indiana Landmarks will make subgrant awards for urgently needed activities like roof replacement, structural repairs, masonry and window rehabilitation, and historic façade repairs to maintain the character and viability of this downtown area. Work has begun on the first property, the WEGA Building at 202 S. Perry Street, where grant funds are assisting masonry rehabilitation on three sides of the building, plus repairing and repainting the decorative metal hoods over the second story windows.

Underrepresented Communities Grant Program:

Published from 1936 to 1966, *The Negro Motorist Green-Book* was a guide for African American travelers. Known simply as "*The Green Book*," this annual travel publication included information about businesses and services that were open to African American patrons at a time when they faced discrimination in many facets of life. *The Green Book* ended publication shortly after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Indiana had nearly 200 entries from 20 different cities over the years, but the DHPA estimates that fewer than 20% of the buildings remain that once housed these businesses. The DHPA received a **\$75,000** grant in 2024 to research and document the remaining *Green Book* sites, prepare guidance for nominating these properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and create a web-based StoryMap highlighting these resources.



**WEGA Building, Attica, Fountain County**



**Downtown Attica, Fountain County**



**Green Book Site (Meyer O. Jacobs, tailor), Indianapolis, Marion County**

## **Can your community benefit from the HPF Program?**

The DHPA's annual HPF Matching Grant Program accepts applications each fall from municipal governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations. Eligible activities include preparation of National Register nominations for historic districts, studies and rehabilitation plans for historic properties, preservation planning documents for communities, archaeological surveys over prioritized areas of the state, and rehabilitation of certain historic buildings. Depending on the project type, grant funds can cover 50, 60, or 70% of costs. Projects selected for funding typically begin in the summer and must be completed in about 24 months. Applicants must have all necessary matching funds available when they apply, and buildings to be rehabilitated must already be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Learn more:**

About the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund at

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/historic-preservation-fund.htm>

About the DHPA's HPF Matching Grant Program for Indiana at

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/financial-assistance/grants/>

About the HPF Programs, as funded in 2023, with highlighted projects around the country at

[https://cdn.savingplaces.org/2023/03/23/15/56/27/809/Appropriations\\_FY2024\\_TempDigital%20\(004\).pdf](https://cdn.savingplaces.org/2023/03/23/15/56/27/809/Appropriations_FY2024_TempDigital%20(004).pdf)

Find the National Park Service's HPF Statistical and Annual Reports at

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/statistical-reports.htm>