

Fact Sheet



RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

WHAT IS AT RISK

Historic preservation is currently under immediate threat and needs your vocal support.

We rely on your voice to advocate for public investment in historic preservation at the state level and in every community across Rhode Island. Thank you for speaking up for Rhode Island today and always.

1.5 BILLION



Dollars historic preservation contributes to RI economy per year

16.5 MILLION



In federal funding re-granted to local communities in the last 10 years

31,000+



Jobs generated by the history, heritage tourism, and restoration industries

TAKE URGENT ACTION

Call your representatives.

If you can spare a few minutes to contact your state and federal congresspeople, we'd be grateful. We've provided some ideas of what to mention.

Send us a testimonial.

Email a few sentences about the value of history and heritage in your life or in Rhode Island. It could be related to your job or what you love about where you live. Does a particular experience come to mind? What concerns you about the possible loss of federal money for preservation?

Share this news widely.

Let your friends and neighbors know what's going on. This matters to people living in other states, too – the funding emergency affects State and Tribal Preservation Offices nationwide.



What to Ask For



The Federal Office of Management and Budget to immediately release the 2025 Historic Preservation Fund, allowing State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to access congressionally appropriated funds.



Strong support for future HPF funding. The proposed 2026 budget currently being debated in Congress nearly eliminates the HPF.



Thank them for their ongoing support of preservation in Rhode Island!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will this impact...

My Certified Local Government (CLG) grant? Yes. These grants will no longer have a funding source, and municipalities will need to find other funding for town planning activities.

My tax-credit project? Yes. The Federal Historic Tax Credit program will essentially dissolve, eliminating an important funding stream for housing and economic development projects. National Register nominations – required for all historic tax credit projects – will also be affected by staff cuts.

My project timeline? Yes. With fewer staff, project reviews will very likely back up, and wait times could stretch by weeks or months.

Which services will be impacted?

Without HPF dollars, significant aspects of the Commission's work cannot happen.

The State Preservation Office employs a team of experts to protect Rhode Island history (above and below ground) as cities and towns evolve. They interface with local governments, architects, small businesses, cultural nonprofits, transportation planners, housing developers, contractors, and other statewide agencies. Losing funding will hamper every aspect of this work.

For every \$1 invested in historic preservation, \$11 of economic activity is produced.

Heritage tourism accounts for 1/3 of Rhode Island's \$8 billion tourism economy.

WHAT IS THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND?

The HPF, which is funded through offshore oil and gas lease fees (not tax dollars), provides essential operational funding to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

This year, the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Office expects to receive approximately \$700,000 from the HPF, which makes up about 20% of our budget – but the National Park Service has not released the FY25 funds, and there are legitimate concerns it never will.

Without federal support, significant aspects of our work (think... tax credits, community grant programs, project review, National Register expansion, and archaeology programs) cannot happen. We redistribute 10% of our HPF funding to local communities every year.