



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

Protecting Native Places 2026 Grant Application Information

About Protecting Native Places

NATHPO, with support from the Mellon Foundation, is once again funding Protecting Native Places (PNP) to assist Member THPOs in preserving Indigenous culture and the environment. Our ongoing partnership enables us to offer PNP grants for 2026.

NATHPO and our partners recognize that Tribal historic preservation and resource management have long been underfunded and too often carried out without meaningful Native involvement. Through this grant, we aim to help change that. PNP supports THPOs in carrying out the work that matters most to you, from responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act to the many other essential efforts you lead. Our goal is to help protect cultural sites by providing funding THPOs' need for the work you determine is most important.

The Details

- **Amount:** \$1,000,000 will be awarded as \$40,000 grants.
 - This is on a 1st come, 1st served basis (only one application per Tribe)
 - We will only accept twenty-five applications
- **Eligibility:** Only NATHPO Full Members, with dues paid, who did not receive a 2025 PNP grant are eligible for Protecting Native Places 2026. If you have questions about membership status or invoicing, please contact Accounting@nathpo.org with 'Membership Question' as the subject.
- **Timeline:**
 - Application submittal opens July 13, 2026.
 - Application submittal closes July 31, 2026, OR after we accept 25 applications whichever comes first.
 - Please note: If you require Tribal Council approval, please note that on your application with approximate timing for approval. This does not affect your ability to apply.
 - NATHPO staff and Board will evaluate applications and select awardees.
 - Notification of award on or before: August 31, 2026.
 - Grants will be disbursed on or before September 18, 2026.
 - The period of performance will be one year after you receive the funds.
 - Final THPO interviews will be conducted on or before September 2027.

Application package **MUST** include the following items, or it will be deemed incomplete:

- Application questions fully answered through this google form ([link available July 13, 2026](#))
- Paid 2026 NATHPO dues
- Tribal W-9
- Contact and Payment Information ([this form provides the needed info](#))

Additional considerations:

- You are **not required** to submit a Tribal Resolution to receive this grant.
- Applications must follow your Tribe's protocols.
- Previous 2025 recipients are not eligible to apply for any 2026 grants.
- Associate members are not allowed to apply for any 2026 grants.
- Lobbying and related advocacy activities are not eligible for PNP.

PROTECTING NATIVE PLACES

How to Apply

We recognize how valuable your time is, so we've made applying for this grant and reporting straightforward. To apply, just respond to the questions—up to 500 words each—in the Google form (link will be provided when grant period opens). You can also upload the necessary documents directly in the form.

Question 1: What cultural resource management and protection is your THPO office involved in? Examples of this work may include incorporation of traditional knowledge, on-the-ground restoration and stewardship, or efforts to influence land management plans or policies. Please briefly list a few of the projects and/or efforts your office is working on.

Question 2: If you receive PNP, how would your THPO office use it to protect and manage Tribal cultural resources and places? Examples include:

- Purchase new or updated equipment (computers, scanners, video equipment, etc.)
- Purchase relevant software (GIS, project management, etc.)
- Staff training and/or travel
- One-time project-based work (digitizing records, developing strategic plans, site documentation)
- Supplements for staff or interns

Budget

- Please upload a general budget for your project or purchases (word, excel, or pdf).

Final Reporting Process

Reporting Option 1:

- Submit a short report (1- 2 pages with images) on the work you performed.
- Be available to answer any questions we might have via email.

Reporting Option 2:

- Submit notes on your project (1- to 2-paragraphs) with images.
- Meet with NATHPO staff via Teams or Zoom to discuss your project.

Picture Requirements for both options:

- Submit at least 2 images to PNPGrants@nathpo.org and cc melissa@nathpo.org
- Provide a caption for each image. This is vitally important!
- Provide a photo credit for the person taking the picture.
- A photo release is required for each person in the photos submitted (one can be found [here](#)).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Andrew Mellon Foundation for helping make Protecting Native Places possible. Supporting THPOs in protecting Native places is central to our mission, and we are proud to offer this member opportunity.

We also thank our members for their continued support. It is an honor to serve the THPO community, and we hope Protecting Native Places supports your work. We intend to continue offering this grant annually to benefit THPOs. We look forward to seeing all that you accomplish.