



JACL

Japanese American Citizens League

Fully Fund the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program

During World War II, nearly 120,000 people of Japanese descent, many of whom were American citizens, were rounded up and incarcerated in various American concentration camps and prisons. As was revealed many years later, this was without any known threat to the country. The United States government offered its formal apology and reparations in 1988, thirty years ago this year.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program was created in 2006 through an authorization of \$38 million dollars. The original authorization passed unanimously with strong bi-partisan support. The funds are to be used to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law.

In 2009, the first appropriations were made and since then, over \$23 million has been distributed to 186 programs in 21 states and the District of Columbia. The funds disbursed by this grant program further leverages local resources with a required local match. Organizations eligible for funding include private nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and state, local, and tribal governments, and other public entities.

Among the important programs implemented are those that seek to preserve the stories of those who were incarcerated in these sites and those who served in the highly decorated but segregated Japanese American military units of the 100th infantry, 442nd regimental, and the MIS. These individuals are being lost at an alarming rate, and it is important to preserve their stories as much as possible while we still have the time.

Request funding for the JACS grant program at \$2.845 million per year for the FY2019 National Park Services appropriations.

For more information, please contact the JACL Washington, DC office at 202-223-1240 or via email at policy@jacl.org