



Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium

Preserve Our Nation's Historical Legacy and Fund the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Program for \$2.9 million in FY2020

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-one years ago.

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 \$26 million has been distributed to 205 projects in 20 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.

In the FY2019 Department of the Interior appropriations, the JACS program received broad bipartisan support both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate for \$2.9 million in funding. We ask that Congress continue to fund the JACS program at this same level for FY2020.