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ST. STEPHENS CHURCH, VA: The **Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia** has received a grant award through the Tribal Heritage grant program, funded by the Historic Preservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The grant will support the rehabilitation and repurposing of the Chief Otho S. and Susie P. Nelson House to provide space for public educational programs.

Located east of Indian Neck in Tidewater Virginia, the Nelson House, which functioned in the 20th century as the Tribal Center, is significant for the role it played during the Tribe's period of cultural revitalization, the almost 100 year-long effort to secure state and Federal recognition (begun in 1921 and obtained in 2018), and the struggle to challenge Virginia's racial laws eliminating Indian identity (1924 Racial Identity Act).

The house was the home of Chief Otho S. Nelson (served 1924-1967) and his wife, Susie, the tribal secretary for the Rappahannock Tribe. His son, Chief Captain Nelson, also lived in the house. Meetings of the Tribe and tribal council took place in the house and Mrs. Nelson operated a school for Indian children and an apothecary, the latter serving both her Indian and non-native neighbors.

The Rappahannock Tribe acquired the Chief Nelson House in 1999 with the intention of rehabilitating the structure. In August 2019, with support from the National Park Service's Under-Represented Communities Grant Fund, the house was listed in the **National Register of Historic Places**.

The mission of the Rappahannock Tribe is to preserve Rappahannock culture, social structures, and political structures while educating the public on the rich contributions that Rappahannocks have made and continue to make to Virginia and the Nation.

Official 8/27/2020 News Release from Washington Follows:

News Release Date: August 27, 2020

Contact: NewsMedia@nps.gov

WASHINGTON - The Trump Administration announced today \$602,923 in tribal heritage grants for 13 preservation projects that assist Indian Tribes, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations in protecting and promoting their unique cultural heritage and traditions.

“These grants provide critical support to help American Indian Tribes and Alaskan and Hawaiian Native communities connect people with their traditions and preserve their cultural heritage for future generations,” **said Margaret Everson, Counselor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the NPS Director.**

Congress appropriates funding for the Tribal Heritage Grant Program through the Historic Preservation Fund. The fund uses revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf to provide assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars.

The grants will finance projects to locate and identify cultural resources, preserve historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, support comprehensive preservation planning, train tribal youth to serve as living history guides, preserve oral history and cultural traditions, provide training to build a historic preservation program, and support cultural and historic preservation interpretation and education.

For more information about the grants and the Tribal Heritage Grant program, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/thpo/tribal-heritage/index.html>. Applications for approximately \$500,000 in 2021 funding will be announced fall of 2020.

Tribal Heritage Grant Awards:

State	Projects	Grantee	Award
Alaska	Dene Cultural Sites in the Matanuska Watershed Survey	Chickaloon Native Village	\$50,000
Alaska	Dena’ina Village Survey	Knik Tribe	\$50,000
Alaska	Sitkinak Island Archaeological Survey (SIAS)	Koniag, Inc.	\$49,301
California	Strategic Planning for Pala Cultural Resources	Pala Band of Mission Indians	\$49,378

California	Telling Our Story: Resighini Rancheria's Oral History Connections to the Klamath River	Resighini Rancheria	\$50,000
Louisiana	Coushatta Heritage Trail Guides and Living History Program	Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	\$50,000
Michigan	Establishing the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians GIS Inventory	Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians	\$41,571
Oregon	Becoming the Burns Paiute: 20th Century Oral History Elder Book Project	Burns Paiute Tribe	\$49,998
South Carolina	Catawba Indian Nation Cultural and Traditional Arts Initiative	Catawba Indian Nation	\$13,403
Texas	Comprehensive Preservation Planning at Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo	\$50,000
Virginia	Chief Otho S. Nelson and Susie P. Nelson House Rehabilitation Project	Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia	\$50,000
Washington	Quileute Tribe's Historic Preservation Plan for Artifact Curation	Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation	\$49,272
Wisconsin	Gete Anishinaabeg Izhichigewin Community Archaeology Project	Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	\$50,000
13 Tribes	Total		\$602,923