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## TRIBAL AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) recognizes that Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), and Indigenous Peoples play a vital role in the protection of historic properties across the nation and works to ensure their full and effective engagement in the historic preservation program. The ACHP pursues this goal through developing program improvements and ACHP-driven policy, technical support for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act reviews, and training and guidance for all practitioners regarding the participation of these key partners in federal decision making about historic properties. The ACHP's Office of External Engagement oversees these activities.

### MAJOR INITIATIVES

#### Policy Adoption

The agency achieves many of its objectives through the development and issuance of policy statements that establish ACHP policy on issues pertaining to Section 106, federal historic preservation programs, and the role of Indian Tribes, NHOs,

and others with Section 106 review and historic preservation programs. The ACHP also advises federal agencies and other stakeholders on steps they can take to support and implement these policies. Major policy statements include the Policy Statement Regarding the ACHP's Relationships with Indian Tribes; Policy Statement Regarding the ACHP's Interaction with Native Hawaiian Organizations; Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation; and Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects. This last policy statement establishes a set of standards and guidelines that federal and state agencies, contractors, and other relevant entities should seek to implement in order to provide burial sites, human remains, and funerary objects the consideration and protection they deserve. More information is available here: <https://www.achp.gov/treatment-burial-sites>.

#### Indigenous Knowledge

The ACHP provides government-wide leadership on recognizing the importance of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in the Section 106 review process and the long-term protection of historic properties of religious and cultural significance

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation promotes the preservation of America's historic places and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.







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ACHP STAFF MEMBERS TEACH A SECTION 106 COURSE TO TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.

to those who hold such knowledge. The ACHP is also committed to working with Indian Tribes, *kanaka maoli* (Indigenous people of the Hawaiian Islands), and NHOs to develop appropriate means to explain the importance and role of IK in all four steps of the Section 106 process. More information is available here: <https://www.achp.gov/indian-tribes-and-native-hawaiians/traditional-knowledge>.

### Protection of Indian Sacred Sites

In December 2021, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy and the ACHP (signatories), among others, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding interagency coordination and collaboration for the protection of Indian sacred sites. The signatories adopted a policy on the confidentiality of sensitive information, published a general information paper on Indian sacred sites, and conducted an extensive study on the federal legal protections for Indian sacred sites.

### Training and Guidance

The ACHP develops and delivers training on Section 106 for Indian Tribes, NHOs, federal agencies, and other stakeholders. The ACHP also offers online/on-demand training including courses on Early Coordination with Indian Tribes for Infrastructure Projects, Native Hawaiian Organizations in the Section 106 Process, and Section 106 Training for Indian Tribes.

The ACHP developed an extensive body of guidance on a wide range of topics including handbooks on both Tribal and NHO consultation, addressing traditional cultural landscapes in the Section 106 process, recommendations for improving Tribal-federal consultations, and the role of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in the Section 106 process.

There are also several information papers that introduce Section 106 participants to topics such as the challenges facing Indian Tribes that were removed from their ancestral homelands, identifying and considering the role of Indigenous places and landscapes, and Tribal treaty rights in the Section 106 process.

For more information on training, please see <https://www.achp.gov/indian-tribes-and-native-hawaiians/training-guidance>.

For more information and additional guidance, please visit: [www.achp.gov/indian-tribes-and-native-hawaiians](https://www.achp.gov/indian-tribes-and-native-hawaiians)



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