



SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide no less than \$170 million in FY 2021 funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities and to forcefully reject any efforts to eliminate the agency. *The NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

For the past five years, the NEH has received small, but steady increases in funding. Even still, when adjusted for inflation, the NEH's funding has decreased by more than 15 percent since 2010.

NEH Annual Appropriations, FY 2010 to Present (in millions of dollars)

FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
167.5	154.7	146	138	146	146	147.9	149.8	152.8	155	162.25

ABOUT THE NEH

The NEH's mission is to strengthen our nation by supporting high-quality projects and programs in the humanities and by making the humanities available to all Americans. The NEH fulfills its mandate by:

- Providing training for thousands of K-12, college, and university teachers;
- Reaching tens of millions of Americans through high-quality television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and reading and discussion programs in museums and libraries across the nation; and
- Supporting, in partnership with the Library of Congress, efforts in every state to digitize and make accessible over 11 million pages of historic American newspapers, with many millions more to follow.

THE FEDERAL INTEREST IN THE HUMANITIES

With a modest federal investment, the NEH plays an outsized role in:

Cultivating an informed citizenry

The NEH was established in 1965 in recognition of the unique role the humanities play in helping U.S. citizens develop the wisdom, vision, and knowledge required to participate in a thriving democracy.

Bridging divides

NEH programs encourage communities across the nation to engage in civic dialogue. From Alaska to Maine, conversation programs help citizens confront difficult issues, voice their perspectives, and learn from others.

Supporting veterans

Through its *Dialogues on the Experience of War* programs, the NEH brings together veterans and civilians to reflect on powerful literature and art. Across five programs assessed in 2019, 96 percent of respondents indicated that humanities materials helped them better understand their experiences. 79 percent of veteran respondents indicated that their program made them more likely to seek help if they need it.

Preserving cultural heritage

Without investments to preserve and make accessible artifacts and documents from our past, key components of our cultural heritage would be lost. And through a partnership with the National Science Foundation, the Documenting Endangered Languages program helps record and protect the languages of Native American tribes throughout the U.S.

Supporting programs of national importance

NEH funding supported the archaeological rediscovery of Jamestown and Plymouth. Funding for scholarly editions and translations ensures that the writings of notable Americans, from the Founding Fathers to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, are accessible either digitally or in print.

THE NEH CATALYZES PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN LOCAL ECONOMIES

A modest amount of federal investment catalyzes private, local support for the humanities. NEH grantees are often able to leverage their awards for greater, local investment. In addition, NEH's investments in museums and historic sites around the country have played a key role in developing local tourist economies.

- Since its inception in 1977, grants made through the NEH Challenge Grants program have leveraged federal funds at a ratio of 3:1, raising more than \$3 billion in private support for humanities projects. Since 2015, the NEH has awarded more than \$43 million in challenge grant funding.
- State councils leverage \$5 for every dollar of federal investment. In 2016, 55 state councils supported 2,419 exhibitions, 280 preservation projects, and 1,612 local history programs, attracting a total audience of 5.5 million people.
- Grantees in the Media Projects program in the Division of Public Programs leveraged NEH awards to raise an estimated \$16,221,684 in funds or donations between 2008 and 2014. This is eight times the amount of the NEH awards, or an 8:1 ratio for NEH funds.