NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. As one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, NEH provides critical support for humanities research, education, preservation, and public programs through grants to a wide range of educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and individual scholars nationwide. NEH grants are awarded in every state and territory of the United States.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2017, we urge Congress to provide no less than $155 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. This increase is essential because demand for NEH support routinely outstrips available funds. In FY 2015, NEH received 4,928 competitive grant applications representing more than $482.8 million in requested funds, but was only able to fund 15.4% of these peer-reviewed proposals.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The FY 2016 omnibus spending bill provided $147.9 million in funding for NEH. This was a nearly $2 million increase from the FY 2015 amount of $146 million. Despite the increase, NEH’s funding has declined by 19%, when adjusted for inflation, over the past six years. For FY 2017, President Obama requested $149.8 million for NEH. NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), commonly referred to as the “grant-making arm” of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), was established by Congress in 1934, along with NARA, to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record. NHPRC grants support a wide range of activities to preserve and increase access to historical records and to publish, in print and/or electronically, the papers of significant figures and themes relating to the history of the U.S.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2017, we urge Congress to provide at least $5 million for the NHPRC grants program. NHPRC funding has not recuperated from major cuts in FY 2011 and FY 2012.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The FY 2016 omnibus funding bill provided $5 million in funding for NHPRC. NHPRC suffered a major cut in FY 2011, reducing its appropriation from $13 million to $7 million, and then another cut for FY 2012 that decreased its budget to $5 million. For FY 2017, President Obama requested $5 million for the NHPRC. The NHPRC grants program is funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

HEA-TITLE VI/FULBRIGHT HAYS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Education’s International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) programs, including HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, form the vital infrastructure of the federal government’s investment in the international service pipeline. The 14 IFLE programs support comprehensive language and area study centers, international business centers, and language resource centers within the United States; research and curriculum development; opportunities for American students and scholars to study abroad; and activities to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in international service. Administrative responsibility for these programs falls under the Office of Postsecondary Education, International Education Programs Service.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2017, we urge Congress to reject President Obama’s proposed cuts to the Department of Education’s International and Foreign Language Programs (HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays) and fund these programs at a minimum of $76 million dollars. Despite a proven record of success, these programs have sustained disproportionate cuts in recent years, and it is critical to begin to restore their capacity.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The FY 2016 omnibus spending bill provided $72.164 million for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays international Education programs. This was the same amount the programs received in FY 2015 and FY 2014. President Obama has requested a reduction to $65.1 million in funding for the IFLE programs. His request includes level funding for HEA Title VI-A&B ($65.103) but a major decrease for Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6) to $2.168 million. Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs are funded under the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. The mission of IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. In addition to grant making, IMLS provides critical leadership to the museum and library communities through support for research and policy development. Its Office of Museum Services (OMS) awards grants to
museums to support educating students, preserving collections, coordinating resources, and digitizing collections. IMLS also administers the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which consolidates federal library programs while expanding services for learning and access to information resources.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2017, we urge Congress to support full funding for the Institute of Museum & Library Services, including full funding for the Office of Museum Services, which is authorized at $38.6 million.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The FY 2016 omnibus appropriations bill provided $230 million to IMLS, which included $31.2 million for the Office of Museum Services and $182.7 million for the Office of Library Services. For FY 2017, the Obama Administration requested $230 million for IMLS, including $32 million for the Office of Museum Services. IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress (LOC) is the largest and most comprehensive legislative and national library in the world. Created and sustained by Congress for 213 years, through every period of the nation's history, the Library of Congress is America's oldest federal cultural institution. It stands as both a symbol and a working institution of fundamental importance to our knowledge-based democracy—preserving and making available vital resources for scholars, educators, students, policymakers, and individual citizens.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2017, we urge Congress to support President Obama’s request of $713.03 million in funding for the Library of Congress.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The FY 2016 omnibus spending bill provided $635.69 million in funding for the Library of Congress, an increase from the FY 2015 omnibus spending bill, which provided $630.85 million. For FY 2017, President Obama requested $713.03 million for the Library of Congress. The LOC is funded under the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

HISTORY AND CIVICS

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, signed into law December 2015, includes funding lines for K-12 history and civics education—the first dedicated funding lines for these subjects since the “Teaching American History Grants” were eliminated in FY 2012. One new funding line would go to a grant program that promotes evidence-based strategies to encourage innovative American history, geography, and civics instruction. These grants are to emphasize programs that benefit low-income students and underserved populations. Another funding line would go to “Presidential and Congressional Academies for American History”, intensive academies for teachers and students to learn more about civics.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2017, we urge Congress to fund the history and civics programs under Subpart B of the Every Student Succeeds Act at their authorized sum of $6.6 million. President Obama requested funding only for the Presidential and Congressional Academies for American History ($1 million dollars) and no funding for the grant programs to promote innovative approaches. History and Civics education would be funded under the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SYRIA (H.R. 1493)

H.R.1493 imposes import restrictions on cultural materials illegally removed from Syria after the civil war began in March 2011 and will fulfill United States obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolution 2199. In addition, the legislation will provide a sense of Congress that the White House should establish an inter-agency committee, under the auspices of the Department of State, to coordinate all federal agency activities that concern protection of cultural property abroad. Such coordination is needed to reduce duplication of effort, increase effectiveness of efforts, and ensure that those agencies with special expertise are called upon in appropriate circumstances. The House passed H.R. 1493 in June 2015. In February 2016, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the bill with an amendment.

ACTION NEEDED: We urge the Senate to pass the H.R. 1493 and the House and Senate to work together to reconcile the House and Senate Bills.

REAUTHORIZATION OF TITLE VI OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Title VI of the Higher Education Act funds international education and foreign language programs that are essential to U.S. global competitiveness and national security. Title VI programs support comprehensive language and area study centers, international business centers and language resource centers within the United States; research and curriculum development; and activities to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in international service. The Higher Education Act expired in late 2013 and Congress is in the beginning phases of crafting reauthorization legislation.

ACTION NEEDED: We urge Congress to reauthorize the currently funded Title VI international education programs in the Higher Education Act, and to consolidate the five unfunded programs into two reformed programs that meet current national needs.

Founded in 1981, the National Humanities Alliance is a coalition of more than 150 organizations dedicated to the advancement of research, education, preservation, and public engagement in the humanities.
SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide no less than $155 million in FY 2017 funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities. NEH’s capacity has been severely eroded in recent years. This increase in funding is necessary to rebuild NEH’s ability to support humanities research, teaching, preservation, and programming. NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

When adjusted for inflation, NEH’s funding has decreased by 18% since 2010 alone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>167.5</td>
<td>154.7</td>
<td>146.0</td>
<td>138*</td>
<td>146.0</td>
<td>146.0</td>
<td>147.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*After sequestration

ABOUT NEH

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Each year, NEH awards hundreds of competitive, peer-reviewed grants to a broad range of nonprofit educational organizations and to individual scholars throughout the country. Grantees include: universities, four- and two-year colleges, humanities centers, research institutes, museums, historical societies, libraries, archives, scholarly associations, K-12 schools, local education agencies, public television/film/radio producers, and more. NEH extends its reach through annual operating grants to state humanities councils located in every state and U.S. territory.

Nationwide, annual demand for humanities support far exceeds available funding. In FY 2015, NEH received 4,928 competitive grant applications, representing more than $482.8 million in requested funds. NEH was able to fund only 15.4% of these applications.

NEH SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

- NEH’s Standing Together initiative draws on the power of the humanities to support veterans and their families and to promote understanding of the military experience for all Americans.
- NEH supports programs designed specifically for community colleges, Hispanic serving institutions (HSIs), and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), ensuring that the humanities are broadly accessible.
- NEH safeguards our cultural heritage, preserving and making accessible books, newspapers, magazines, sound recordings, material objects, and still and moving images for use now and for generations to come.
- NEH-supported humanities councils in every state and U.S. territory sponsor family literacy programs, speakers’ bureaus, cultural heritage tourism, exhibitions, and live performances.
NEH’s Public Scholar program supports projects that make cutting-edge humanities work accessible to a broad public.

Through EDSITEment!, NEH offers a library of lesson plans for K-12 teachers on arts, culture, foreign language, history, social studies, literature, and language arts that draw on the resources generated by NEH-funded projects.

NEH IN NUMBERS

- Since its inception in 1977, grants made through the NEH Challenge Grants program have leveraged federal funds at a ratio of 3:1, raising $3,152,110,194 in private support for humanities projects.
- Over 10 million pages of historic American newspapers have been digitized through the National Digital Newspaper Project, with many millions more to follow.
- Grants for research have resulted in the publication of nearly 8,400 books, including 18 Pulitzer Prize winners and 20 Bancroft Prize winners.
- State councils leverage $5 dollars for every dollar of federal investment. In 2015, state councils reached over 5,300 communities nation-wide and worked with over 9,200 partner organizations.
- 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.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

NEH is the only federal agency tasked with advancing U.S. achievement in the entire range of academic fields in the humanities. As defined by the founding legislation, these include: “language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods.”

WHY ARE THE HUMANITIES CRUCIAL TO OUR NATIONAL WELL-BEING?

- Humanities disciplines teach essential skills and habits including reading, writing, critical thinking, and effective communication that are crucial for ensuring that each individual has the opportunity to learn and become a productive member of society.
- Employers predict that future economic growth will come from cultural knowledge and analytical ability paired with technical knowledge and scientific research.
- Humanities disciplines cultivate the deep knowledge of the languages, cultures, and histories of rapidly changing areas of the world that national security, diplomatic, and business communities regularly draw upon to understand the contexts in which they work.
- The humanities promote the understanding of our common ideals, enduring civic values, and shared cultural heritage.
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to reject the President’s proposed cuts and fund Title VI and Fulbright-Hays at a minimum of $76 million. NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Recent cuts in funding to the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs have severely eroded our international education and foreign language infrastructure. Severe cuts implemented in FY 2011 resulted in 25% fewer resource centers, 18% fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships, fewer training opportunities for students and teachers, and fewer outreach activities to government and business.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title VI</td>
<td>$110.3</td>
<td>$68.3</td>
<td>$66.6</td>
<td>$63.1</td>
<td>$65.1</td>
<td>$65.1</td>
<td>$65.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulbright-Hays</td>
<td>$15.6</td>
<td>$7.5</td>
<td>$7.5</td>
<td>$7.1</td>
<td>$7.1</td>
<td>$7.1</td>
<td>$7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$125.9</td>
<td>$75.8</td>
<td>$74.1</td>
<td>$70.2</td>
<td>$72.2</td>
<td>$72.2</td>
<td>$72.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For FY 2017, President Obama requested level funding for Title VI programs and only $2.17 million for Fulbright-Hays. This proposed cut to Fulbright-Hays would amount to a 69% reduction to programs that fund scholars, students, and teachers to develop deep cultural knowledge.

ABOUT TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

Title VI funding supports:

- National Resource Centers, which are centers on college and university campuses that serve as resources for teaching over 130 foreign languages and deepening understanding of all areas and regions of the world. These centers train students, specialists, and other scholars; maintain important library collections; support advanced research; and conduct outreach to K-12 & higher education institutions, business, government, and the media.
- Foreign-Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, which enable undergraduate and graduate students to undergo training in critical foreign languages and area or international studies.
- Language Resource Centers, which improve the nation’s capacity for teaching and learning foreign languages through teacher training, research, and materials development.
- Centers for International Business Education, which promote U.S. global economic competitiveness by improving international business education and research and serving as national and regional resources for businesses, government, and other U.S. educational institutions.
American Overseas Research Centers, which promote international scholarly exchange, primarily through sponsorship of fellowship programs, foreign language study, and collaborative research projects.

The Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, which funds efforts to establish and strengthen undergraduate programs in foreign languages and international and area studies.

Fulbright-Hays includes four programs providing overseas support for Title VI. Due to funding reductions since FY 2011, only two programs are currently funded. They support:

- Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA), which supports individual doctoral students to conduct research in other countries in critical foreign languages and area and international studies, especially in areas of the world not generally included in U.S. curricula.
- Group Projects Abroad (GPA), which supports overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in foreign languages and area studies for teachers, students, and faculty, including advanced intensive language programs to increase proficiency levels.

TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS SERVE NATIONAL NEEDS

- The ability of our nation to engage with diverse cultures at home and abroad through deep language and international expertise is crucial to our economic competitiveness and national security.
- In 2011, only 28% of the Department of Defense’s foreign language positions were filled with personnel at the required proficiency level.
- 70% of U.S. corporate firms reported in a recent Association for International Business Education and Research survey that foreign language skills and an appreciation for cross-cultural differences are the most important requirements for entry-level positions.
- Other federal programs with more targeted priorities, such as those at the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and State, depend on the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays to support students and scholars in area studies and foreign languages in order to further their respective strategic goals.

TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS ARE EFFECTIVE

- In 2007, a National Research Council study found that HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays “have served as the foundation for internationalization in higher education at modest cost, while stimulating substantial additional investment by universities themselves.”
- Students who received a FLAS or DDRA fellowship were more likely to finish their degree and did so in less time than their peers according to the same 2008 longitudinal study.
- A 2008 Department of Education funded study concluded that 90% of Fulbright-Hays dissertation research abroad fellowship recipients and 71% of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship recipients worked in careers that directly utilized their foreign language and area studies expertise.
ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2017, we urge Congress to provide at least $5 million for the NHPRC grants program, as requested in the President’s budget. NHPRC funding has been cut substantially in recent years, and it is important to ensure that its capacity not be further depleted.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY</th>
<th>NHPRC Annual Appropriations, FY 10 to Present (in millions of dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*After sequestration

ABOUT NHPRC

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), commonly referred to as the “grant-making arm” of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), was established by Congress in 1934, along with NARA, to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record. NHPRC grants support a wide range of activities to preserve and increase access to historical records and to publish, in print and/or electronically, the papers of significant figures and themes relating to the history of the United States.

NHPRC SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

- NHPRC enables NARA to provide national leadership through grants that support exploration of major archival issues, such as electronic records and coordination and communication among state archivists nationwide.
- NHPRC provides grants to create documentary editions (both physical and electronic) of the papers of individuals and institutions that have been identified as nationally significant.
- NHPRC supports publications projects of national significance, such as the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution project, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and the Papers of George Washington.
- NHPRC is committed to promoting increased public and educational access to these publications through digitization.
- These grants leverage state, local, institutional, foundation, and other private funding by requiring 50% cost sharing. NHPRC grants are the linchpin of most funded projects’ funding structures.
PROTECT OUR SHARED CULTURAL HERITAGE

ACTION NEEDED
We urge Congress to pass H.R. 1493, which imposes import restrictions on cultural materials illegally removed from Syria after March 2011.

BILL OVERVIEW
This legislation will impose import restrictions on cultural materials illegally removed from Syria after the beginning of its civil war in March 2011 and will fulfill United States obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolution 2199. In addition, the legislation will provide a sense of Congress that the White House should establish an inter-agency committee, under the auspices of the Department of State, to coordinate all federal agency activities that concern protection of cultural property abroad. Such coordination is needed to reduce duplication of effort, increase effectiveness of efforts, and ensure that those agencies with special expertise are called upon in appropriate circumstances.

The House passed H.R. 1493 in June 2015. In February 2016, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the bill with an amendment. We urge the Senate to pass H.R. 1493 and the House and Senate to work together to reconcile the House and Senate Bills.

H.R. 1493 SERVES NATIONAL INTERESTS
- The archaeological remains of the Middle East, North Africa, and the broader Mediterranean Basin are a significant part of our shared cultural heritage.
- This heritage is increasingly subject to damage, destruction and looting of sites and repositories as a part of armed conflict and other threats.
- The sale of looted archeological objects funds the terrorist activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This bill will ensure that the United States is not a market for these objects.
- The destruction of sites and historic structures is another form of ISIL terrorism perpetrated on the local populations
- The destruction of cultural heritage diminishes our ability to learn, reconstruct, and understand our past.