



National Humanities Alliance

F Y 2 0 1 9 F U N D I N G P R I O R I T I E S

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, the 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 2019, we urge Congress to provide no less than \$155 million in funding for the NEH. This increase is essential because demand for NEH support routinely outstrips available funds. In FY 2016, the NEH received 5,304 competitive grant applications representing \$518.2 million in requested funds, but was only able to fund 16% of these peer-reviewed proposals.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The NEH is currently funded at \$149.8 million, which reflects a \$2 million increase from the FY 2016 levels. The NEH also received a \$2 million increase for FY 2016. Despite these increases, the NEH's funding has declined by more than 22%, when adjusted for inflation, since 2010. *The 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 the NARA, to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record. NHPRC grants support to 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 2019, we urge Congress to provide at least \$6 million for the NHPRC grants program, level-funding from FY 2017.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The NHPRC is currently funded at \$6 million, a \$1 million increase over the FY 2016 level. Despite this increase, the NHPRC has not recovered from a major cut in FY 2011 that reduced its appropriation from \$13 million to \$7 million. When adjusted for inflation, the NHPRC has seen a 60% decrease since FY 2010. *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 the 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 2019, we urge Congress to provide at least \$76 million in funding for Title VI/Fulbright-Hays. 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: Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are currently funded at \$72.164 million, the same funding level going back to FY 2014. This funding level reflects a 50% reduction since FY 2010. *The 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 the IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. In addition to grant making, the 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. The 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 2019, we urge Congress to support full funding for the IMLS, including full funding for the Office of Museum Services, which is authorized at \$38.6 million.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The IMLS is currently funded at \$231 million. The FY 2017 level included \$31.7 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$183.2 million for the Office of Library Services. *The IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress is the largest and most comprehensive legislative and national library in the world. Created and sustained by Congress for 216 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 2019, we urge Congress to appropriate at least \$713.03 million to the Library of Congress.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The Library of Congress is currently funded at \$632 million. The FY 2017 level was an increase from the FY 2016 bill, which provided \$600 million. *The Library of Congress is funded under the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.*

HISTORY AND CIVICS

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, signed into law in 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 funding line supports 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 goes to “Presidential and Congressional Academies for American History,” intensive academies for teachers and students to learn more about civics.

ACTION NEEDED: For FY 2019, 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.

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS: The history and civics education programs are currently funded at \$3.5 million. *The programs are funded under the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

Founded in 1981, the **NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE** is a coalition of more than 190 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 2019 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

In FY 2016 and FY 2017, the NEH saw its first increases in funding since FY 2010. Even still, when adjusted for inflation, the NEH's funding has decreased by more than 22% since 2010.

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

Table with 9 columns: FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018. Values range from 138 to 167.5.

* Proposed Senate Appropriation + Proposed House Appropriation

ABOUT THE NEH

The NEH's mission is to strengthen our nation by supporting 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 school, college, and university teachers;
Reaching tens of millions of Americans with television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and reading and discussion programs in museums and libraries across the nation;
Supporting, in partnership with the Library of Congress, efforts in every state to digitize and make accessible hundreds of thousands of pages of historic U.S. newspapers;
Supporting scholarly research that has resulted in significant archaeological discoveries, the publication of thousands of books, and the pioneering of innovative digital methods.

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. To this day, the NEH supports excellence in humanities research, teaching, and learning opportunities that provide millions of Americans the knowledge of our history and culture essential for engaged citizenship;
ENSURING THAT ALL AMERICANS BENEFIT FROM THE HUMANITIES. NEH funding, with the support of the state humanities councils, reaches every state and congressional district;
CATALYZING PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN LOCAL ECONOMIES. A modest amount of federal investment catalyzes private, local support for the humanities. The NEH grantees are often able to leverage their award for greater, local investment. In addition, the NEH's investment in museums and historic sites around the country has played a key role in developing local tourist economies;
PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE: Without investment to preserve and make accessible artifacts and documents from our past, key components of our cultural heritage would ultimately be lost.

SAMPLE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- **SERVING VETERANS:** The *Standing Together* initiative, which emphasizes the innovative ways that the humanities can engage military veterans and communities, was expanded in 2016. A new grant program, *Dialogues on the Experience of War*, uses humanities texts to examine the experience of military service. *Dialogues* has brought discussion programs to veterans in rural and urban communities in 18 states and the District of Columbia since it was started in 2016.
- **REACHING RURAL COMMUNITIES:** The *NEH on the Road* program ensures that high-quality museum exhibitions—originally curated with NEH support—reach all parts of the country. To date, 17 exhibitions have traveled to more than 300 venues in 47 states and the District of Columbia. 53% of the communities served have a population under 50,000. In FY 2016 alone, 99,268 children and adults attended exhibitions. *Common Heritage* awards small grants for public programs that help people preserve their heritage items while contributing copies to digital collections. Awards have been made to 84 communities in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico since 2016.
- **SUPPORTING K–12 STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS:** *National History Day* engages more than 600,000 students and 20,000 to 30,000 teachers annually in each state and territory. Students conduct primary source research, with presentations including documentaries and websites. Students then compete on the local, state, and national level. A 2011 evaluation found that students involved in the program outperformed their peers on state standardized tests. *EDSITEment*, an online collection of educational humanities resources sees 2.5 million unique visitors per year and is used primarily by elementary, middle, and high school educators.
- **PRESERVING LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE OF TRIBAL GROUPS:** A 2015 grant to Ilisagvik College in Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska, helped preserve Iñupiaq, a UNESCO-classified endangered language with only about 2,000 fluent speakers. In addition to creating an online database that documents the language, faculty and students created language-acquisition materials—online apps and storybooks—that are used by the local summer reading program and the college’s innovative “language nest” program for pre-K children.

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 11 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 17 Pulitzer Prize winners and 22 Bancroft Prize winners.
- 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.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

The 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.”

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION—TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2019, we urge Congress to provide at least \$76 million in funding for the Department of Education’s Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs. These programs are crucial to addressing the critical need for expertise in foreign languages and deep knowledge of all world regions. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Deep cuts implemented in FY 2011 severely eroded our international education and foreign language infrastructure. These cuts 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. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays have still not recovered from those reductions and have seen their capacity further eroded.

Title VI & Fulbright Hays Annual Appropriations, FY 10 to Present (in millions of dollars)

Table with 10 columns (FY 2010 to FY 2018) and 3 rows (Title VI, Fulbright-Hays, Total) showing annual appropriations in millions of dollars.

* Proposed Senate Appropriation + Proposed House Appropriation

ABOUT TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

Title VI of the Higher Education Act (HEA) was first authorized in the National Defense Education Act of 1958. Fulbright-Hays is permanently authorized under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. Together they are the two pillars of international and foreign language education in the U.S. education system.

Title VI funding supports:

- List of 8 funding support items including National Resource Centers, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, Language Resource Centers, Centers for International Business Education, American Overseas Research Centers, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, and International Research and Studies.

FULBRIGHT-HAYS includes four programs providing overseas support for Title VI. Due to funding reductions since FY 2011, only three programs are currently funded. Funding supports:

- *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.
- *Seminars Abroad*, which funds 4-6 week study and travel seminars abroad for U.S. educators (including K-12) to improve their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other world regions.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS CRUCIAL FOR PRODUCTIVE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- **CONFRONTING GLOBAL CHALLENGES:** Many of our most pressing challenges at home and abroad are global in nature: from climate change, pandemics, and refugee crises, to food security and threats to communications, transportation, and financial systems. These challenges require a workforce with international, cultural, and language skills in science, agriculture, medicine, nursing, engineering, law, cyber security, aviation administration, and more.
- **EFFECTIVE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT:** In recent years, new and complex challenges from a series of unexpected upheavals and armed conflicts around the world revealed our shortfalls in required regional and language expertise. The U.S. Department of Defense reported in one hearing that only 28% of military positions with language requirements were filled with personnel at the required proficiency level.
- **CIVIC AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** In our ever more interconnected world and diverse homeland, cross-cultural competencies, knowledge of world regions, and the ability to speak other languages are crucial skills. These abilities provide insight into the complexities of global and regional issues, including differences in values, perspectives, and priorities.
- **ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS:** Trade represents a great and growing share of our economy, with the value of U.S. exports doubling to more than \$3 trillion annually from 2004 to 2014. In a 2014 survey of 850 U.S. corporations, 85% reported that with more international expertise on staff their business would increase.

TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS EFFECTIVELY SERVE NATIONAL NEED

- **PRODUCE DEEP EXPERTISE**—Title VI and Fulbright-Hays strengthen our nation’s knowledge about all world regions and expertise in over 200 foreign languages. Studies have shown that Title VI National Resource Centers account for 59% of undergraduate and 81% of graduate enrollments in the least-commonly-taught languages of strategic interest.
- **FILL HIGH-SKILL POSITIONS**—90% of Fulbright-Hays DDRA recipients and 71% of FLAS recipients work in careers that directly utilize their foreign language and area studies expertise. Many graduates, such as former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, go on to careers in the government including at the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and USAID.
- **PROMOTE BROAD GLOBAL COMPETENCIES**—Title VI grantees regularly conduct outreach activities to educational institutions, business, government, the media, and underrepresented populations. They ensure that a wide range of faculty and teachers have the resources to teach foreign languages and the history and cultures of all world regions. Title VI supported the development of more than half the textbooks now in use for teaching “less commonly taught” languages.
- **STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION**—Title VI spearheads nationwide internationalization of business education to train students and business managers for success in the global marketplace. From 1987–2009, nearly 250,000 students graduated from a CIBER university with a concentration in international business and nearly 300,000 executives, many associated with small and medium businesses, have been trained by CIBERs.

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NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION (NHPRC)

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2019, we urge Congress to provide at least \$6 million for the NHPRC grants program and to oppose any efforts to eliminate the program. NHPRC funding has been cut substantially in recent years, and it is important to ensure that its capacity not be further depleted. The NHPRC is currently funded at FY 2017 levels under a continuing resolution. The NHPRC is funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

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

Table with 9 columns: FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012, FY 2013, FY 2014, FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018. Values range from \$13 million to \$4 million.

*House +Senate

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 the NARA, to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record.

NHPRC SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

- This small grants program enables the 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;
- Grants to create documentary editions (both physical and electronic) of the papers of individuals and institutions that have been identified as nationally significant.
- The 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.
- The 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 the funding structures for most grant recipients.

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SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2019, we urge Congress to support funding for the Institute of Museum & Library Services. This request includes full funding for the Office of Museum Services, which is authorized at \$38.6 million, and \$182.7 million for library programs through the Library Services and Technology Act. The IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

The IMLS' funding has not yet recovered from sequestration, though it has benefitted from modest funding increases in recent years. For FY 2018, the House bill provided level funding of \$231 million and the Senate bill provided a \$4 million increase. The House bill was passed by the full House, while the Senate bill only passed out of committee. The IMLS is currently funded by the Continuing Resolution (CR) at FY 2017 levels.

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

Table with 10 columns (FY 2010 to FY 2018) and 2 rows (Museum Services, Library Services) showing funding amounts in millions of dollars.

BACKGROUND

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The mission of the IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. In addition to grant making, the 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 that support educating students, preserving collections, coordinating resources, and digitizing collections. The 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.

IMLS SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

- Museums support jobs and the economy. They spend \$21 billion annually, employ more than 400,000 Americans, and spur tourism from around the world.
■ Museums are an essential part of the nation's educational infrastructure, spending more than \$2 billion a year on education and promoting lifelong learning.
■ One in six adults (or about 36 million) in the U.S. have low literacy skills—libraries provide learning opportunities for adults who are no longer part of the K-12 educational system, including adults who face economic and other challenges.
■ Libraries and museums build the civic strength of their communities and provide opportunities for public engagement.
■ IMLS grants are awarded in every state and congressional district, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly-rated grant applications it receives.
■ The most recent reauthorization—unanimously passed by Congress—called for an increase in federal support, both to strengthen existing national programs at the IMLS and to support museums directly at the state level.