



# 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.