



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.

NEH Annual Appropriations, FY 10 to Present (in millions of dollars)

FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
167.5	154.7	146.0	138*	146.0	146.0	147.9

**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.