



National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Request

- We join the larger humanities community—including the National Humanities Alliance and the Federation of State Humanities Councils—in urging Congress to provide at least \$167.5 million for the NEH in FY 2020.

Introduction

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Grants are awarded to nonprofit educational institutions—including museums, colleges, universities, archives and libraries—for educational programming and the care of collections, in addition to annual grants to state humanities councils located in every state and U.S. territory.

Talking Points

- In FY 2018, as a whole, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded 826 grants totaling more than \$67 million to institutions across the U.S., including museums. Many of NEH's divisions and offices support museums:
 - The Division of Public Programs offers grants that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life in museums and other spaces by supporting exhibitions, community conversations, and place-based history. Additionally, Positions in the Public Humanities supplements provide professional development opportunities for new museums professionals.
 - The Division of Preservation and Access provides funding to museums for efforts to preserve and provide access to our nation's rich cultural heritage.
 - The Division of Education Programs supports programs that bring educators to museums for intensive summer training programs on humanities topics.
 - The Office of Digital Humanities offers grants to support innovations in technology at museums, universities, and other institutions.
 - The Office of Challenge Grants offers matching grants to support much needed capacity building and infrastructure projects at museums.
 - The Division of Research supports scholarly research that many museums use to inform exhibitions and public programming.
- In calendar year 2018, 218 NEH-funded permanent and traveling exhibitions were open around the nation, providing life-long learning opportunities to a wide public audience.
- Humanities councils in every state and U.S. territory sponsor family literacy programs, speakers' bureaus, cultural heritage tourism, exhibitions, and live performances. In 2018, 55 state councils supported 2,389 exhibitions, 10,097 discussion events, 166 preservation projects, and 769 local history programs. In total, all state council programs reached an audience of more than 137 million people. State councils also awarded more than 3,000 grants to partners in their communities.

Status

- NEH is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill. The House and Senate proposed \$155 million for NEH in FY 2019. The NEH received \$152.8 million in FY 2018 funding and \$155 million in FY 2019 funding, the latter of which was finalized in mid-February 2019 several months after the Oct. 1, 2018 start of the 2019 fiscal year.



- On July 18, 2018, an amendment offered by Representative Glenn S. Grothman (R-WI) that would have cut the NEH (and the NEA) by 15 percent was defeated by a roll call vote of 297-114.
- As in past years, the president’s FY 2020 budget proposed eliminating NEH, only allocating funding for “orderly closeout.”
- On June 25, 2019 the U.S. House of Representatives passed an appropriations package (H.R. 3055) that would provide \$167.5 million for NEH in FY 2020—a \$12.5 million increase. The Senate has yet to consider its Interior Appropriations bill.

NEH Funding History (*in millions*)

	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13 CR*	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20 President’s Request
Appropriation	\$167.5	\$154.7	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$146	\$147.9	\$149.8	\$152.8	\$155	Elimination

*In FY 2013, across-the-board sequestration cuts reduced NEH’s effective funding to \$138.4 million.