

National Endowment for the Humanities

Request

- We join the larger humanities community—including the National Humanities Alliance and the Federation of State Humanities Councils—in urging Congress to provide the House-passed level of \$201 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022 for the NEH and provide a robust funding increase for FY 2023.

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 US territory.

In October 2021, NEH awarded \$87.8 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to nearly 300 cultural and educational institutions, including museums, to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic, retain and rehire workers, and reopen sites, facilities, and programs. Grant awards were made in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands. These grants were supported by \$135 million in supplemental funding allocated to NEH by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. In June 2021, NEH distributed \$52.6 million of this funding to state and jurisdictional humanities councils to support humanities organizations, programs, and professionals at the local level.

Talking Points

In FY 2021, in addition to the money distributed through NEH ARP Grants, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded 677 grants totaling more than \$85.4 million to institutions across the US, including museums. All of NEH's divisions and offices support museums:

- The Office of Challenge Grants offers matching grants to support much needed capacity building and infrastructure projects at 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 museum 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.

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- The Office of Digital Humanities offers grants to support innovations in technology at museums, universities, and other institutions.
- The Division of Research supports scholarly research that many museums use to inform exhibitions and public programming.
- In preparation for the U.S. Semiquincentennial in 2026, NEH's new "A More Perfect Union" initiative provides funding opportunities across the agency's seven grantmaking divisions for humanities projects that promote a deeper understanding of American history and culture and that advance civic education and knowledge of our core principles of government. As part of the initiative, most of NEH's grant programs include special encouragements to applications related to the United States' 250th anniversary. The agency has also partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to support a national convening to assess the state of civics education and knowledge of American history in K-12 education, and created new funding opportunities to support cultural infrastructure projects.
- For 13 years, NEH has supported important sustainability work on [energy efficiency projects in collections care](#).

Status

The NEH is funded through the Interior & Environment appropriations bill. It is currently funded by a Continuing Resolution (CR) at the FY 2021 level of \$167.5 million through March 11 while Congress negotiates FY 2022 funding. The House-passed Interior bill included \$201 million for the agency.

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	Appropriation (in millions)
FY 10	\$167.5
FY 11	\$154.7
FY 12	\$146
FY 13 CR*	\$146
FY 14	\$146
FY 15	\$145
FY 16	\$147.9
FY 17	\$149.8
FY 18	\$152.8
FY 19	\$155
FY 20	\$162.25
FY 21	\$167.5
FY 22	TBD
FY 23 President's Request	TBD

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