

THE STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS

AN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

The humanities are vital to a thriving democracy.

We urge Congress to provide **\$225 million** for the National Endowment for the Humanities and **\$70 million** for the state and jurisdictional humanities councils in FY 2022.

Funding History for the NEH and the State and Jurisdictional Humanities Councils (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Federal / State Partnership	43.040	46.000	47.200	48.000	50.028	51.576
Total, NEH	147.942	149.848	152.848	155.000	162.250	167.500

The significant increase requested for NEH and the councils in FY 2022 will provide resources to bring communities together during and after the pandemic, strengthen civic education about our democracy, and connect tens of thousands of new program participants virtually. Councils will also continue planning for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The humanities councils, with programs in nearly every congressional district, are uniquely positioned to lead inclusive explorations of the past, present, and future of our country.

How Humanities Councils Foster Vibrant Communities and Strengthen the Nation

Invest in Communities

Make long-term investments in **more than 5,300** communities nationwide through:

- CARES funding grants to more than 4,500 local cultural organizations
- 1000s of additional grants to small, local museums, libraries, & other organizations
- Community conversations that address local issues like the environment, racial equity, and political polarization
- Capacity-building
- Cultural tourism tools, such as online tours & folklife & book festivals

Support Veterans

Strengthen connections between veterans, their families, and their communities through:

- The collection of veterans' oral histories
- Writing workshops
- Reading & discussion groups
- Programs to educate the public about challenges veterans & their families face
- Support for VA Hospital staff

Promote Literacy & K-12 Education

Support access, development, and resources for students, families, and teachers through:

- Creating and funding family literacy programs to help children succeed in school & parents thrive in the workforce
- Providing professional support for teachers to improve student learning
- Developing and supplying online resources for students

Serve Diverse Groups

Conduct programs in **nearly every congressional district** that benefit a wide range of people, including:

- Asian and Arab Americans
- Black, Indigenous, and people of color
- Immigrants
- Latinxs
- LGBTQ populations
- Native populations
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- Young adults, teens, & children

Reach Rural Residents

Provide cultural resources to rural residents through:

- Traveling exhibits
- Speaker series
- Chautauquas
- Reading & discussion programs
- Television & radio programs on cultural & historical topics
- Resources to small cultural institutions

Protect & Preserve Local Heritage

With **more than 8,800 local partners**, councils use their networks to:

- Present speakers & exhibitions on local history
- Fund oral history projects & documentaries
- Digitize cultural artifacts to ensure long-term stability
- Distribute emergency funds quickly after natural disasters

Why is Increased Federal Funding for the State Humanities Councils Important?



Councils stimulate local economies. Councils invigorate local economies by investing in communities' cultural and educational infrastructure. By supporting museums, libraries, festivals, and public programming, councils enrich communities' quality of life, making them more attractive to businesses and a skilled, educated workforce. This support has been a lifeline for cultural organizations throughout the pandemic. The councils sent nearly \$30 million dollars of CARES ACT funding back into communities across the nation.



Councils leverage more than \$4 at the local level for every federal dollar they regrant. Each year, councils leverage their NEH funding to raise millions of dollars to invest in local communities. NEH support is the vital seed money that enables councils to raise additional funds from corporations, foundations, individuals, and state government.



Councils support innovative programs on veterans' issues. Writing workshops and reading and discussion programs help veterans reintegrate into their communities. Literature & Medicine programs allow VA hospital staff to better understand and empathize with their patients, which improves the quality of their care. Community dialogues, speakers series, and films enable the general public to more fully appreciate the challenges veterans and their families face. Council veterans' oral history projects have captured voices that were lost to COVID-19.



Councils promote K-12 education. Councils provide resources for students and, in many states, the only summer institutes, weekend workshops, or other professional development programs for humanities teachers. Councils adeptly shifted these vitally important programs to virtual platforms in 2020. By better preparing teachers in their subjects, these programs improve the quality of students' education and reduce costly teacher turnover.



Councils partner with over 8,800 organizations nationwide. Councils partnered with museums, libraries, K-12 schools and universities, senior centers, correctional facilities, veterans hospitals, churches and social service agencies, corporations, local businesses, chambers of commerce and state tourism offices, radio and television stations, and many others.



Councils promote appreciation of local and national history and heritage. Councils support public discussion forums, exhibits, documentary films, online encyclopedias, and oral history projects.



Councils provide a cultural lifeline to isolated rural communities. Councils serve rural residents through humanities speakers series, reading and discussion sessions, and other programs in local libraries, museums, and community centers. A number of councils grew their letter-writing programs during the pandemic to connect those in rural areas without broadband.



Councils reach diverse populations in tens of thousands of rural, suburban, and urban communities. Council programs across the nation benefit a vast range of Americans, including veterans, seniors, rural residents, parents, young children, students and teachers, Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and people with disabilities.



Councils foster early childhood education. Council family literacy programs support children's future educational and economic success, strengthen family ties, and increase parents' job prospects by improving their reading skills.



Councils help us have difficult conversations. Councils work with and in communities to bring together neighbors and strangers across differences to listen respectfully and learn from one another, creating spaces to talk about histories of inequity, issues we face today, and the future we can collaboratively create.

Councils support lifelong learning. Council programs encourage curiosity, creativity, critical reasoning, and understanding of diverse cultures – traits essential to building a more competitive workforce in a rapidly changing, knowledge-based global economy.



FEDERATION OF
STATE HUMANITIES
COUNCILS

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