

Humanities Policy Priorities

FY 2024



National
Humanities
Alliance

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THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES ALLIANCE (NHA) is a nationwide coalition of organizations advocating for the humanities on campuses, in communities, and on Capitol Hill. Founded in 1981, NHA is supported by over 250 member organizations, including: colleges, universities, libraries, museums, cultural organizations, state humanities councils, and scholarly, professional, and higher education associations. It is the only organization that brings together the U.S. humanities community as a whole.

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide robust funding in FY 2024 for the National Endowment for the Humanities. *The NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Prior to last year’s historic funding increase, the NEH had received small, but steady increases in funding. Even still, when adjusted for inflation, the NEH’s funding has decreased by more than 10 percent since 2010.

NEH Annual Appropriations, FY 2014 to Present (in millions of dollars)

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
146	146	147.9	149.8	152.8	155	162.25	167.5	180	207

ABOUT THE NEH

The NEH’s mission is to strengthen our nation by supporting high-quality projects and programs in the humanities and by making the humanities available to all Americans. The NEH fulfills this mandate by funding cutting-edge research, professional development for thousands of educators, the preservation of cultural heritage, and public programs that deepen understanding of history and culture.

THE FEDERAL INTEREST IN THE HUMANITIES

A deep engagement with our history and culture is critical to rebuilding our nation’s civic culture as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. A more robust investment in the NEH is essential to support humanities educators and organizations across the United States in:

Cultivating an informed citizenry & providing humanities access

The NEH was established in 1965 in recognition of the unique role the humanities play in helping U.S. citizens develop the wisdom, vision, and knowledge required to participate in a thriving democracy. With a mandate to provide humanities access to all Americans, the NEH supports work that preserves, documents, and encourages dialogue across the rich diversity of American experiences. Support for libraries, museums, and historic sites, as well as podcasts and documentaries, ensures that all Americans have access to high-quality humanities experiences, while professional development programs for K-12 educators help bring rich humanities knowledge to classrooms throughout the U.S.

Building strong communities

NEH programs encourage communities across the nation to engage in civic dialogue. From Alaska to Maine, conversation programs help citizens confront difficult issues, voice their perspectives, and learn from others. Through its *Dialogues on the Experience of War* programs, the NEH brings together Veterans and civilians to reflect on powerful literature and art. Across nine programs assessed from 2018–2020, 96 percent of respondents indicated that humanities materials helped them better understand their experiences. Seventy-nine percent of Veteran respondents indicated that their program made them more likely to seek help if they need it.

Preserving cultural heritage

Without investments to preserve and make accessible artifacts and documents from our past, key components of our cultural heritage would be lost. Grants for small and large institutions alike fund the preservation of locally- and nationally-significant collections throughout the U.S. And through a partnership with the National Science Foundation, the Dynamic Language Infrastructure-Documenting Endangered Languages grant program helps record and protect the languages of Native American tribes throughout the U.S.

Supporting programs of national importance

NEH funding supported the archaeological rediscovery of Jamestown and Plymouth. Funding for scholarly editions and translations ensures that the writings of notable Americans, from the Founding Fathers to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, are accessible either digitally or in print. Meanwhile, *Chronicling America*, a partnership between the Library of Congress and the NEH, is digitizing and making accessible the historic newspapers of every state.

THE NEH CATALYZES PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN LOCAL ECONOMIES

A modest amount of federal investment catalyzes private support for the humanities. NEH grantees are often able to leverage their awards for greater, local investment. In addition, the NEH's investments in museums and historic sites around the country have played a key role in developing local tourism economies.

- Since its inception in 1977, grants made through the NEH Challenge Grants program have leveraged each dollar of federal funding for an additional \$3 in private funds, raising more than \$3 billion in private support for humanities projects.
- Grantees in the Media Projects program in the Division of Public Programs leveraged each dollar of federal funding for an additional \$8 in private funds between 2008 and 2014.
- State councils leverage every dollar of federal investment for an additional \$5 in private funds.

SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION— TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2024, we urge Congress to provide \$173.6 million for the Department of Education’s Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, including \$152.1 million for Title VI and \$21.5 million for Fulbright-Hays. This would restore the programs to their FY 2010 funding levels, when adjusted for inflation. *Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

In FY 2010, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays received \$110.3 million and \$15.6 million respectively. Deep cuts implemented in FY 2011 have severely eroded our international education and foreign language infrastructure and capacity for over a decade. These cuts resulted in 22 percent fewer resource centers, 18 percent fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships, fewer training opportunities for students and teachers, and fewer outreach activities to government and business. Although over the last four years Congress began restoring funding for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays by an accumulative 19 percent, the programs have not nearly recovered from the FY 2011 reductions.

Title VI & Fulbright-Hays Annual Appropriations, FY 2014 to Present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Title VI	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	68.1	69.4	71.9	75.4
Fulbright-Hays	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.8	9.8	10.3
Total	72.2	72.2	72.2	72.2	72.2	72.2	76.2	78.2	81.7	85.7

ABOUT TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are the Department of Education’s international education programs. Title VI funds language and area studies on campuses around the country and Fulbright-Hays supports students and faculty to travel abroad for research.

Title VI of the Higher Education Act (HEA) was first authorized in the National Defense Education Act of 1958. Fulbright-Hays is permanently authorized under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. Together they are the two pillars of international and foreign language education in the U.S. education system. These programs are crucial to addressing the critical need for expertise in foreign languages and deep knowledge of all world regions.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS CRUCIAL FOR PRODUCTIVE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Confronting global challenges

Many of our most pressing challenges at home and abroad are global in nature: from climate change, pandemics, and refugee crises, to food security and threats to communications, transportation, and financial systems. These challenges require a workforce with international, cultural, and language skills in science, agriculture, medicine, nursing, engineering, law, cyber security, aviation administration, and more. For example, a 2023 Center for Strategic and International Studies report on strengthening the Center for Disease Control’s global mission emphasizes the need for international staff to undergo training in language and cultural skills to effectively confront emerging outbreaks.

Effective military and diplomatic engagement

In recent years, unexpected upheavals and armed conflicts around the world revealed our shortfalls in required regional and language expertise. The U.S. Department of Defense reported in one hearing that only 28 percent of military positions with language requirements were filled with personnel at the required proficiency level. The Secretary of Education regularly surveys federal agency heads on areas of national need for expertise in foreign language and world regions. Based on the Secretary's 2022 report, there are 161 priority languages that are less commonly taught.

Civic and cultural competency

In our ever more interconnected world and diverse homeland, cross-cultural competencies, knowledge of world regions, and the ability to speak other languages are crucial skills. These abilities provide insight into the complexities of global and regional issues, including differences in values, perspectives, and priorities.

Economic competitiveness

Trade represents a great and growing share of our economy, with the value of U.S. exports doubling to more than \$3 trillion annually from 2004 to 2014. In a 2014 survey of 850 U.S. corporations, 85 percent reported that with more international expertise on staff their business would increase.

TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS EFFECTIVELY SERVE NATIONAL NEEDS

Produce deep expertise

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays strengthen our nation's knowledge about all world regions and expertise in over 200 foreign languages. Studies have shown that Title VI National Resource Centers account for 59 percent of undergraduate and 81 percent of graduate enrollments in the least commonly-taught languages of strategic interest.

Fill high-skill positions

Ninety percent of Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) recipients and 71 percent of Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) recipients work in careers that directly utilize their foreign language and area studies expertise. Many graduates, such as former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, go on to careers in the government including at the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and USAID.

Promote broad global competencies

Title VI grantees regularly conduct outreach activities to educational institutions, businesses, the government, the media, and underrepresented populations. They ensure that a wide range of faculty and teachers have the resources to teach foreign languages and the histories and cultures of all world regions. Title VI supported the development of more than half the textbooks now in use for teaching less commonly taught languages.

Stimulate economic growth and job creation

Title VI spearheads nationwide internationalization of business education by funding Centers for International Business Education and Research (CIBERs). From 1989–2021, over half a million (506,581) students graduated from a CIBER university with a concentration in international business and over 394,846 executives, many associated with small- and medium-sized businesses, have been trained by CIBERs.

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide robust funding in FY 2024 for the operating expenses of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the agency. *The National Archives is funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Increased federal spending for the National Archives is necessary to manage, preserve, and make accessible the federal government's records. Prior to last year's significant increase in funding, NARA's budget had either decreased or been stagnant in recent years even as its responsibilities have grown.

The NHPRC's budget has seen small increases in recent years, but its capacity has not recovered from major reductions after FY 2011.

NARA and NHPRC Annual Appropriations, FY 2014 to Present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
NARA	370	365	372	380.6	384.6	373	359	377	388.3	427.5
NHPRC	4.5	5	5	5	6	6	6.5	6.5	7	12

ABOUT NARA AND NHPRC

Congress established the National Archives in 1934 to preserve and make accessible to the public the records of the U.S. Government. American citizens rely on access to immigration, naturalization, and census records held by the National Archives to provide proof of citizenship and conduct genealogical research. Veterans and their families rely on military records preserved by NARA to gain access to their benefits. NARA coordinates all federal records issues, including declassification of federal records and compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Federal Records Act, and the Presidential Records Act. It also holds the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. To meet the increasing demands of citizen access and preserve the growing collection of federal records, NARA now has over 40 facilities nationwide, including 32 regional archives and records centers and 14 presidential libraries.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) promotes the preservation and use of the American documentary record. It supports publication projects of national significance, such as the Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, the papers of George Washington, the Frederick Douglass Papers, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. NHPRC grants are essential to support preservation and increased access to historical records. These grants leverage state, local, institutional, foundation, and other private funding by requiring 50 percent cost sharing.

NARA'S FUNDING HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH INCREASING RESPONSIBILITIES

- The federal government's transition to electronic records, including email, has dramatically increased the number and complexity of records NARA needs to manage, process, and catalog.
- Each new presidential library created and placed under NARA's care adds new staff, maintenance, and records management costs.
- NARA's responsibilities in facilitating declassification and FOIA compliance have increased at a time of diminishing resources, creating large backlogs.
- Forced to do more with less funding, NARA has had to reduce hours at its research rooms and limit the number of materials individuals can access at one time, expanding the time required to conduct research. As a result, conducting research takes longer and is more difficult to do.

SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2024, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the Office of Museum Services and for the administration of the Library Services and Technology Act. *The IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

IMLS funding has not yet recovered from deep cuts in 2011, though it received a significant increase last year and increased modestly in previous years. In 2018, Congress passed the Museum and Library Services Act to reauthorize the IMLS until Fiscal Year 2025 and authorized increased funding for both museum and library services.

IMLS Annual Appropriations, FY 2014 to Present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Museum Services	28.7	30.1	31.2	31.7	34.7	34.7	38.5	40.5	47.5	55.5
Library Services	180.9	180.9	182.7	183.5	189.3	189.3	195.5	197.4	197.4	211.1

ABOUT IMLS

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The mission of the IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its Office of Museum Services (OMS) awards grants that support museums in their efforts to educate students and preserve and digitize 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.

In 2018, legislation reauthorizing IMLS passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support—by unanimous consent in the Senate and by a vote of 331 to 28 in the House—showing Congress’ renewed support for the agency’s programs and a renewed commitment to its funding.

IMLS SERVES NATIONAL NEEDS

- Museums are economic engines: prior to the pandemic, they supported more than 726,000 jobs and contributed \$50 billion to the U.S. economy per year. They attract tourists, promote economic development, and make communities more desirable for employers.
- Museums' economic impact generates \$12 billion in tax revenue at all levels of government.
- Museums are an essential part of the nation's educational infrastructure, spending more than \$2 billion a year on education and lifelong learning.
- One in six adults (or about 36 million) in the U.S. have low literacy skills—libraries provide learning opportunities for adults who are no longer part of the K-12 educational system, including adults who face economic and other challenges.
- Libraries and museums build the civic strength of their communities and provide opportunities for public engagement.
- IMLS grants are awarded in every state and congressional district, but current funding has allowed the agency to fund only a small fraction of the highly-rated grant applications it receives. For example, in FY 2021 OMS received 943 applications requesting more than \$154 million but was only appropriated \$40.5 million.

HISTORY AND CIVICS

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, signed into law in December 2015, includes funding for K-12 history and civics education—the first dedicated funding lines for these subjects since 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 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 2024, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the U.S. Department of Education's history and civics programs. *History and civics programs are funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

History and Civics Appropriations, FY 2016 to Present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
History and Civics Academies	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	2	3	3
American History and Civics Education Grants	0	1.7	1.7	3	3	3.25	4.75	20

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 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 fundamental to our knowledge-based democracy—preserving and making available vital resources for scholars, educators, students, policymakers, and individual citizens.

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2024, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the Library of Congress. The acquisition, management, and preservation of digital collections is an enormous task and the Library must have adequate funds to manage and provide access to digitized and born-digital content. *The Library of Congress is funded under the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Library of Congress Appropriations, FY 2014 to Present (in millions of dollars)

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
579.0	590.9	599.9	631.9	669.9	696.1	719.4	802.1	839.0	875.5

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMS HELP KEEP AMERICA SAFE

Three related U.S. Department of State programs help keep America safe and counter authoritarian historical narratives through the protection and preservation of cultural heritage globally. The Cultural Antiquities Task Force (CATF) coordinates U.S. law enforcement efforts for the protection of cultural heritage and interdiction of trafficked antiquities internationally. The U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) enables U.S. embassies to fund cultural projects that promote U.S. interests. The 16 interagency partners of the Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee (CHCC) advance diplomatic, law enforcement, and defense efforts.

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2024, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the AFCP, the CATF, and the CHCC. These programs advance a whole-of-government approach for the promotion of U.S. cultural interests abroad. When adjusted for inflation, the AFCP is receiving almost \$1 million less than in 2018.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Heritage Preservation and Protection Appropriations 2018 to present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 20148	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
AFCP	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25
CATF	1	1	1	1	1.5	1.5
CHCC	0	0	0	0	0	0

CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION HELPS KEEP AMERICANS SAFE BY

- Promoting a positive view of the U.S., especially in world regions that are experiencing violent extremism.
- Countering extremist narratives promoted by authoritarian rulers who attempt to erase diverse heritage and religions. This need is highlighted by the Russian government’s ongoing systematic attempts to erase Ukraine’s unique cultural identity.
- Demonstrating American values in action by facilitating the free participation in cultural life by all people, as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Maintaining rule of law to hold perpetrators of cultural heritage destruction accountable and to help restore that heritage once conflict has ended.
- Disrupting illegal trade and promoting stability, economic development, and good governance in partner countries.
- Contributing to stabilization, reconstruction, and post-conflict recovery in countries experiencing strife.