

Humanities Policy Priorities

FY 2026



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.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide robust funding in FY 2026 for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Prior to an historic funding increase in FY 2023, the NEH had received small but steady increases in funding. Nonetheless the NEH’s funding has decreased by more than 15 percent since 2010 when adjusted for inflation.

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

FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
146	147.9	149.8	152.8	155	162.25	167.5	180	207	207	TBD*

*For FY 2025, the House bill included \$203.9 million and the Senate bill included \$209 million for the NEH.

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. Through its grantmaking programs, the NEH supports the preservation of cultural heritage, professional development for thousands of educators, cutting-edge research, and public programs that deepen understanding of history and culture. NEH grants reach every state and every congressional district.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION—TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2026, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the Department of Education's Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

While we have seen incremental gains for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays in recent years, the programs have not recovered from severe cuts in FY 2011. These cuts led to 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.

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

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Title VI	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.1	68.1	69.4	71.9	75.4	75.4	TBD*
Fulbright-Hays	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.8	9.8	10.3	10.3	TBD*
Total	72.2	72.2	72.2	72.2	72.2	76.2	78.2	81.7	85.7	85.7	TBD*

*For FY 2025, the House bill included \$73.3 million for Title VI and \$8.2 million for Fulbright-Hays. The Senate bill included \$75.4 million for Title VI and \$10.3 million for Fulbright-Hays.

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. Together, these programs address the nation's critical need for world language and cultural expertise in fields such as foreign policy and business and reinforce pipelines for instruction in languages such as Arabic and Mandarin, which are not commonly taught in high schools.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide robust funding in FY 2026 for the operating expenses of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the agency’s grantmaking arm.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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 FY 2023’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 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
NARA	365	372	380.6	384.6	373	359	377	388.3	427.5	427.3	TBD*
NHPRC	5	5	5	6	6	6.5	6.5	7	12	10	TBD*

*For FY 2025, the House bill included \$427.3 million for NARA and \$5 million for the NHPRC.
The Senate bill included \$434.7 million for NARA and \$5 million for the NHPRC.

ABOUT NARA

The National Archives and Records Administration preserves and makes accessible to the public the records of the U.S. Government. 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. Its 40 facilities nationwide are used by American citizens who rely on access to immigration, naturalization, and census records to provide proof of citizenship and conduct genealogical research. Veterans and their families rely on military records to gain access to their benefits.

ABOUT THE NHPRC

As NARA’s grantmaking arm, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) supports projects that preserve the American documentary record, support the field of preservation, and connect Americans with archival resources.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2026, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the Office of Museum Services and for the administration of the Library Services and Technology Act.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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 in FY 2023 and modest increases in previous years. In 2018, Congress passed the Museum and Library Services Act to reauthorize the IMLS until FY 2025 and authorized increased funding for both museum and library services.

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

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Museum Services	30.1	31.2	31.7	34.7	34.7	38.5	40.5	47.5	55.5	55.5	TBD*
Library Services	180.9	182.7	183.5	189.3	189.3	195.5	197.4	197.4	211.1	211.1	TBD*

*For FY 2025, the House bill included \$34.1 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$185.8 million for the Office of Library Services. The Senate bill included \$42.9 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$214.1 million for the Office of Library Services.

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.

HISTORY AND CIVICS PROGRAMS

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2026, we urge Congress to provide robust funding for the U.S. Department of Education's History and Civics Programs.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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	FY 2024	FY 2025
History and Civics Academies	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	2	3	3	3	TBD*
American History and Civics Education Grants	0	1.7	1.7	3	3	3.25	4.75	20	20	TBD*

*For FY 2025, the House bill included \$3 million for the History and Civics Academies and no funding for the American History and Civics Education Grants. The Senate bill included \$3 million for the History and Civics Academies and \$20 million for the American History and Civics Education Grants.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HISTORY AND CIVICS PROGRAMS

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, signed into law in December 2015, includes funding for K-12 history and civics education—the only dedicated funding lines for these subjects. One funding line supports a grant program that promotes evidence-based strategies to encourage innovative American history, geography, and civics instruction, targeting schools that serve 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.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

ACTION NEEDED

For FY 2026, 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.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
590.9	599.9	631.9	669.9	696.1	719.4	802.1	839.0	875.5	897.7	TBD*

*For FY 2025, the House bill included \$883.4 million and the Senate bill included \$924.7 million for the Library of Congress.

ABOUT THE 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. The Library of Congress is fundamental to our knowledge-based democracy—preserving and making available vital resources for scholars, educators, policymakers, and individual citizens.