

# THE NATION'S HUMANITIES COUNCILS

## *An investment in America's communities*

*The humanities are at the heart of a thriving democracy.*

We urge Congress to provide robust funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, including a significant investment for the state and jurisdictional humanities councils in FY 2024.

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

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Federal/State Partnership</b>	47.200	48.000	50.028	51.576	54.348	65.000
<b>Total, NEH</b>	152.848	155.000	162.250	167.500	180.000	207.000

Communities across the nation depend upon state and jurisdictional humanities councils for critical support for their cultural infrastructure to help make sense of issues facing our nation. Global concerns about democracy are growing, and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is quickly approaching. To continue to provide both in-person and virtual humanities programming and much-needed resources, an increase is requested for NEH and the humanities councils in FY 2024.

The humanities councils, with programs in nearly every congressional district, are uniquely positioned to serve our nation.

### How Humanities Councils Foster Vibrant Communities and Strengthen the Nation

#### Invest in Communities

Councils **serve nearly every congressional district** of rural, suburban, and urban communities:

- ARP funding grants to more than 4,100 local cultural organizations in total
- In 2022, additional 3,700+ grants to community organizations, small museums, libraries, & others for local projects
- Over ninety percent of councils provide programs focused on civic engagement
- Supporting and building capacity and cultural infrastructure
- Folklife & book festivals invigorate heritage tourism

#### Create Resources for Teachers

Councils **partnered with more than 1,285 K-12 schools & systems last year** to support teachers, students, & families by:

- Developing & supplying online K-12 resources for students
- Providing professional development for teachers to improve student learning
- Creating civic engagement programs to deepen understanding of democracy
- Creating & funding family literacy programs to help children succeed in school

#### Reach Rural Residents

**Over 85% of councils provide cultural resources to rural residents through:**

- Traveling exhibits to highlight local heritage
- Convening local historians and scholars for speakers series and discussion programs
- Supporting partnerships and skill-building opportunities driven by and for local organizations

#### Design Local & Statewide Programs

Councils **work with diverse communities:**

- Nearly 80% of councils partnered or created programs with community colleges
- More than 85% of councils served seniors with programs for lifelong learners
- Partnered with 39 incarceration or detention facilities
- Partnered with 860+ libraries nationwide
- More than half served Tribal Nations & indigenous communities
- 43% of councils provided programs focused health and wellness outcomes

#### Serve Veterans

**60% of councils provide programs for veterans, active military, and families:**

- Discussion groups to help veterans process their experiences together
- Writing workshops to encourage storytelling
- Reading & discussion programs for VA Hospital staff
- Programs to strengthen connections & educate the public about the challenges veterans & their families face

#### Preserve, Protect, & Promote Local Heritage

With **more than 5,175 local partners**, councils use their networks to:

- Co-create relevant programming
- Present speakers & exhibitions on local history
- Fund documentary films
- Digitize documents & photographs to ensure long-term stability
- Distribute emergency funds quickly after natural disasters