



State Humanities Councils: An Investment in America's Communities

The state humanities councils offer programs in every congressional district that strengthen individuals, families, and communities. Councils support K-12 education, family reading programs, local heritage initiatives, veterans' programs, public discussion forums, online state encyclopedias, book festivals, documentaries, lectures, library and museum exhibits, professional development, and more.

Funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities, councils stretch federal dollars by diligent fiscal management, strategic collaborations, and leveraging of resources at the local level. In 2010 state councils . . .

- *Leveraged \$5.15 for every federal dollar awarded in grants*
- *Worked with 9,600 partner organizations*
- *Conducted programs in 5,700 communities nationwide*

The President's budget request for FY 2012 reduces all NEH programs and significantly cuts funding for the state humanities councils by 15%.

	FY 2010 Appropriation <i>in millions</i>	President's 2012 Budget <i>in millions</i>	Percentage Decrease
NEH	\$167.5	\$146.2	13%
State Councils	\$47.1*	\$40.1	15%

**Includes \$40.3 through the Federal/State Partnership and \$6.8 through NEH We the People initiative*

These funding cuts, if enacted, will deprive students, teachers, families, nonprofit organizations, libraries, museums, and many others of vital educational and cultural resources – a loss intensified by shrinking funding from other sources and a still-struggling economy.

For FY 2012 the Federation of State Humanities Councils requests funding at the FY 2010 levels of \$167.5 million for National Endowment for the Humanities and \$47 million for the state humanities councils.

Maintaining funding at the FY 2010 level will allow state humanities councils to continue to . . .

- Foster an informed citizenry—the lifeblood of a democracy—by offering humanities programs in rural, urban, and suburban communities that attract participants of all ages, education levels, religions, races, income levels, political perspectives, and more.
- Respond to needs specific to their own states, involving citizens in shaping programs for their communities. Many of these programs would not exist without council support.
- Offer competitive grants that foster new partnerships, celebrate local history and traditions, and bind neighbors together in shared learning experiences.
- Support K-12 education by providing extensive online learning resources for students and continuing education institutes and online curricula for teachers. In many states these programs are the only affordable professional development opportunities available to teachers.
- Strengthen family bonds, improve students' academic performance, and increase parents' reading skills and employment opportunities through family reading programs.
- Nurture the nation's cultural infrastructure by awarding grants to local museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions for capacity building, professional development, and innovative programming.