

State Humanities Councils:

An Investment in America's Cultural, Economic, Community, and Educational Vitality

The state humanities councils have been the neighborhood face of the humanities for nearly 40 years, engaging citizens in rural towns and urban communities in programs that educate, challenge, and enlighten. Through grants and leveraging of federal funds, the councils support programs in every congressional district in the country, serving hundreds of thousands of families, students, teachers, health care professionals, veterans, and many more. **Every federal dollar councils give out in grants leverages more than \$5 at the local level.**

- Our most complex problems – both domestic and international - will never be solved by science alone. The nation has never had a greater need for humanities programs that impart knowledge of our own and other cultures, foster critical reasoning, cultivate ethical awareness, and nurture creativity. **An investment in state humanities councils is an investment in America's cultural and economic vitality.**
- State humanities council support is crucial for small community organizations and institutions such as libraries, museums, and historical societies that have suffered severe cuts in public and private funding during the economic downturn. **An investment in state humanities councils is an investment in America's community vitality.**
- Councils invest in K-12 education in their states by providing online learning tools for students and offering low-cost, content-rich institutes and seminars for teachers. In many states, these professional development opportunities are the only ones available for teachers. **An investment in state humanities councils is an investment in America's educational vitality.**
- To help meet growing needs, councils have steadily expanded and diversified their funding base over the past decade, but the federal investment in these programs is critical to their ability to leverage other funds and maintain their core operations. The federal dollars provided through the councils have leveraged millions of dollars of matching and in-kind funds at the local and state levels.
- State humanities councils function as full partners of the National Endowment for the Humanities by extending the reach of NEH programs to small towns, suburban neighborhoods, and inner city urban areas throughout the nation.
- Councils understand and respond to needs specific to their states, involving citizens in developing programs for their own communities. Many of these programs would not exist without council support.
- Individuals are enriched and communities are strengthened through lectures, exhibits, documentary films, and oral history projects that increase understanding of local and national history and heritage.
- Councils continually introduce innovative programs in their states, including online encyclopedias, webinars, and other digital learning tools for teachers, students, and members of the public.