



Why is Increased Federal Funding for the State Humanities Councils Important?

- Councils strengthen communities by **investing in the nation's cultural and educational infrastructure**. Councils enrich communities' **quality of life** and create a sense of place by supporting cultural programming, cultural institutions such as museums and libraries, and **lifelong learning opportunities**. Communities that improve their quality of life can **invigorate their economies** by attracting businesses and a highly skilled, educated workforce.
- Every federal dollar councils gave out in grants in FY 2015 **leveraged \$5 at the local and state levels**. This federal investment is critical to councils' ability to leverage additional funds from corporations, foundations, individuals, and state government. Federal funding is the seed money that enables councils to **raise millions of dollars** from these other sources **to invest in local communities**.
- Councils support innovative programs on **veterans' issues**. Writing workshops and reading and discussion programs help **veterans reintegrate into their communities**. Literature and Medicine programs allow **VA hospital staff** to better understand and empathize with their patients, which **improves the quality of their care**. Community dialogues, speakers series, and films enable the general public to more fully appreciate the challenges veterans and their families face.
- Councils promote **K-12 education** by providing online resources for students and summer institutes, weekend workshops, and other professional development programs for teachers. In many states, these programs are the only continuing education opportunities for humanities teachers. By better preparing teachers in their subjects, these programs benefit students by improving the quality of their education and **benefit taxpayers by reducing costly teacher turnover**.
- Councils promote knowledge and appreciation of **local and national history and heritage** by supporting public discussion forums, exhibits, documentary films, online encyclopedias, and oral history projects.
- In FY 2015 councils **partnered with over 9,200 organizations nationwide**: museums and libraries, K-12 schools and universities, senior centers and veterans hospitals, churches and social service agencies, corporations and local businesses, chambers of commerce and state tourism offices, radio and television stations, and many others.
- Councils provide a cultural lifeline to isolated **rural communities** through humanities speakers series, reading and discussion sessions, and other programs in local libraries, museums, and community centers.
- In FY 2015 council programs **reached over 5,300 communities** – rural, suburban, and urban – across the nation. These programs **serve diverse populations**, including veterans, seniors, young children, at-risk youth, students and teachers, Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and new citizens.
- Councils foster **early childhood education** through family literacy programs that support children's future **educational and economic success**, strengthen **family ties**, and increase **parents' job prospects** by improving their reading skills.
- Council programs support **lifelong learning** that encourages curiosity, creativity, critical reasoning, and understanding of diverse cultures – traits essential to building a more competitive workforce in a rapidly changing, knowledge-based global economy.
- Councils boost **cultural tourism** by funding professional development opportunities at museums and other cultural institutions and by supporting folklife and book festivals, online tours, and Chautauquas.