

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



Councils stimulate local economies. Councils invigorate local economies by investing in communities' cultural and educational infrastructure. By supporting museums, libraries, festivals, and public programming, councils enrich communities' quality of life, making them more attractive to businesses and a skilled, educated workforce.



Councils leverage \$5 at the local level for every federal dollar they regrant. Each year, councils leverage their NEH funding to raise millions of dollars to invest in local communities. NEH support is the vital seed money that enables councils to raise additional funds from corporations, foundations, individuals, and state government.



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. Councils provide online resources for students and, in many states, the only summer institutes, weekend workshops, or other professional development programs for humanities teachers. By better preparing teachers in their subjects, these programs improve the quality of students' education and reduce costly teacher turnover.



In FY 2015, councils partnered with over 9,200 organizations nationwide. Councils partnered with 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 promote appreciation of local and national history and heritage. Councils support public discussion forums, exhibits, documentary films, online encyclopedias, and oral history projects.



Councils provide a cultural lifeline to isolated rural communities. Councils serve rural residents through humanities speakers series, reading and discussion sessions, and other programs in local libraries, museums, and community centers.



In FY 2015, councils reached diverse populations in over 5,300 rural, suburban, and urban communities. Council programs across the nation benefit a vast range of Americans, including veterans, seniors, rural residents, parents, young children, at-risk youth, students and teachers, Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, and Asians.



Councils foster early childhood education. Council family literacy programs support children's future educational and economic success, strengthen family ties, and increase parents' job prospects by improving their reading skills.



Councils support lifelong learning. Council programs encourage 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.



**FEDERATION OF
STATE HUMANITIES
COUNCILS**

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