

THE STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS

AN INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

The humanities are vital to a thriving democracy.

We urge Congress to provide **\$170 million** for the National Endowment for the Humanities and **\$54 million** for the state humanities councils in FY 2021.

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

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Federal/State Partnership	42.528	43.040	46.000	47.200	48.000	50.028
Total, NEH	146.021	147.942	149.848	152.848	155.000	162.250

The \$54 million requested for FY 2021 would enable councils to expand their programming and better address the significant unmet demand for their services. Councils stretch the federal investment **by leveraging, on average, more than \$4 for every federal dollar awarded** in grants. The increase requested for NEH and the councils will also provide resources to continue planning for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The state humanities councils, with programs in nearly every congressional district, are uniquely positioned to lead this exploration of the ideals and institutions on which this great nation was founded.

How State Humanities Councils Foster Vibrant Communities and Strengthen the Nation

Reach Rural Residents

Provide cultural resources to rural residents through:

- Traveling exhibits
- Speaker series
- Chautauquas
- Reading & discussion programs
- Television & radio programs on cultural & historical topics
- Resources to small cultural institutions

Invest in Communities

Make long-term investments in **more than 5,300** communities nationwide through:

- Grants to small local museums, libraries, & other organizations
- Facilitated community conversations to address local issues
- Capacity-building
- Cultural tourism tools, such as online tours & folklife & book festivals

Support Diverse Groups

Reach **nearly every congressional district** and serve a variety of communities:

- Native Americans & other ethnic groups
- Veterans
- Rural residents
- Young adults, teens, & children
- Seniors
- Immigrants
- Teachers

Serve Veterans

Strengthen connections between veterans, their families, and their communities through:

- Writing workshops
- Reading & discussion groups
- Programs to educate the public about challenges veterans & their families face
- Support for VA Hospital staff

Promote Literacy & K-12 Education

Support students, families, and teachers through:

- Funding family literacy programs to help children succeed in school & parents thrive in the workforce
- Providing professional support for teachers to improve student learning
- Supplying online resources for students

Protect & Preserve Local Heritage

With **more than 8,800 local partners**, councils use their network to:

- Support speakers & local history exhibits
- Fund oral history projects & documentaries
- Digitize cultural artifacts to ensure long-term stability
- Distribute emergency funds quickly after natural disasters