



Support the National Historical Publications and Records Commission

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Objective:

We urge Congress to maintain or increase funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and to reject President Trump’s efforts to eliminate this crucial program.

Background:

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), established in 1934, is the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NHPRC grants support the preservation, publication, and accessibility of documentary sources related to American history. The Commission also provides leadership and best practices for the nation’s vast network of archives. The NHPRC has lost significant funding since FY2010, and President Trump proposed the elimination of the agency in his FY18 budget request. While NCH and other groups successfully advocated to maintain funding for FY18, the NHPRC is under threat once again in FY19.

NHPRC Funding History, FY10 – Present (in millions of dollars)

FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19*
13	10	5	4.75	4.5	5	5	6	6	0

*President’s budget request. Final appropriations for FY19 have not been determined.

Why it matters:

NHPRC grants increase public access to important records, providing crucial source material for historians. Without funding to make such documents available, historical research would suffer. This would detrimentally impact independent scholars, students, and citizens who are unable to visit the archives in person.

Past NHPRC initiatives include:

- Publication of the papers of John Adams, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and other prominent Americans through the Founders Online project.
- Preservation and access for oral histories and tribal records of dozens of American Indian tribes, including the Seneca, Blackfoot, and Oglala Sioux.
- The creation of numerous digital archives, making primary source material on local and national history accessible to all Americans online.

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