



## National Historical Publications and Records Commission

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the ‘grant-making’ arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) was established by Congress in 1934 to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record. NHPRC grants support a wide range of activities to increase public access to historical records and to publish, in print and/or electronically, the papers of significant figures and themes relating to the history of the United States.

**Action Needed** • For FY 2016, we urge Congress to provide at least \$5 million for the NHPRC grants program. NHPRC funding has been cut substantially in recent years, from \$13 million in FY 2010 to \$5 million in FY 2015.

**Current funding status** • The FY 2015 omnibus continuing resolution provided \$5 million in funding for the NHPRC. For FY 2016, President Obama requested \$5 million for the NHPRC. **The Financial Services and General Government (FS&GG) FY 16 funding bill recently approved by House Appropriations Committee would provide level funding (\$5 million) for the NHPRC. The Senate Appropriations Committee has yet to release its FS&GG bill.**

### NHPRC’s recent appropriations history:

FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13*	FY14	FY15
\$9.5	\$11.25	\$13	\$7	\$5	\$4.75	\$4.5	\$5

\* Continuing resolution at FY12 level minus approximately 5 percent due to sequestration.

### Talking Points:

- **What does the NHPRC do?**

Through its small, but effective, grants program the NHPRC provides national leadership and support for preserving our documentary heritage. NHPRC grants fund a wide range of activities to preserve and increase public access to historical records and to publish, in print and/or electronically, the papers of significant figures in U.S. history. It plays a vital role in the preservation of essential historical materials to make them more accessible to the public and has worked with educators to create online resources for teachers and students. In addition, NHPRC archival grants assist state and local governments in disaster preparedness, helping localities protect and preserve their vital public records during natural disasters.

Its most ambitious project, Founders Online, has made available online the papers of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. This allows students free access to these primary sources on the Web. (<http://founders.archives.gov>)

- **NHPRC grants are used to leverage private sector funding. Severe cuts in NHPRC's appropriations would have a domino effect causing funding from other sources to be withdrawn or reduced.**

The NHPRC is history’s venture capitalist. The Commission’s grants leverage federal dollars by requiring grantee institutions to contribute or raise major amounts of non-federal funds. Through its model cost-sharing program, in which the required non-federal contribution is 50% or more, the NHPRC has effectively employed federal leverage to preserve our documentary heritage, while ensuring other potential funders that the projects are of genuine significance, capably staffed, and well organized.

NHPRC grants are the linchpins for the funding structure of most projects--without them the structure will collapse and current projects could lose all funding, and since the vast majority of NHPRC grant money goes for personnel costs, there would be a corresponding loss of jobs in a field that is already hard hit by state and local funding cuts.