



Support the National Endowment for the Humanities

Last updated 4-2-18

Objective:

We urge Congress to maintain or increase funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and to reject President Trump’s efforts to eliminate this vital agency.

Background:

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created in 1965. It awards grants to cultural institutions – museums, archives, libraries, universities, etc – and to individual scholars to support teaching, research, and access to humanities resources. NEH has lost significant funding since FY2010, and for FY18 President Trump proposed the elimination of the agency, with only minimal funding to ensure an orderly closure. While NCH and other groups successfully advocated to maintain funding for FY18, the NEH is under threat once again in FY19.

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

FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19*
168	155	146	138	146	146	148	150	153	42.3

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

Why it matters:

The NEH provides essential funding to programs that “serve and strengthen our republic by promoting excellence in the humanities and conveying the lessons of history to all Americans.”¹ NEH grants have supported efforts that bring history into the homes and communities of millions of Americans through education, research, preservation, and more. Examples of notable NEH projects include:

- *Chronicling America*, a free digital archive of over 8 million newspaper pages published between 1836 and 1922
- *NEH On the Road*, a program that allows museum exhibits to be scaled down for smaller venues across the country
- Groundbreaking popular documentaries such as Ken Burns’ *The Civil War* and Stanley Nelson’s *Freedom Riders*
- Extensive outreach to veterans under the Endowment-wide initiative “Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War”
- Local heritage trails, visitor centers, tours, and more through the *Interpreting America’s Historic Places* program.

NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

¹ <https://www.neh.gov/about>