



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

Request:

- We join the larger humanities community, including the National Humanities Alliance, in urging Congress to provide \$204 million in program funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities in FY 2011 – a \$64 million increase over FY 2010, including \$144 million for national programs (a \$44.4 million increase), and \$60 million for the federal/state partnership (a \$19.6 million increase).
- We urge Congress to oppose the \$7.2 million in program cuts proposed in the Administration's FY11 budget.*

Introduction:

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Its awards go to nonprofit educational institutions, including museums, colleges, universities, archives, and libraries. NEH extends its reach through annual operating grants to state humanities councils located in every state and U.S. territory. Since its creation, the NEH has provided vital support to the museum community through its grant programs, which support museums as institutions of learning and exploration, and keepers of our cultural, historical, and scientific heritages. NEH funding provides grants to museums in a number of areas, including educational programming and collections management, among others.

Talking Points:

- As the impact of the economic downturn deepens, many institutions and nonprofits around the country, including museums, are struggling to maintain continued access to high-quality programming and educational opportunities in the humanities.
- The \$44 million increase in funding will support NEH national programs, such as Preservation & Access, and Challenge Grants among other programs. In 2009, through the Preservation & Access Awards, 31 museums received a total of \$8.7 million dollars for a variety of programs showcasing our nation's rich cultural heritage.
- Demand for humanities project support, as demonstrated by NEH grant application rates, far exceeds available funding. In FY 2009, NEH received 4,366 competitive grant applications representing more than \$402 million in requested funds, but was only able to fund 16.9% of these peer-reviewed project proposals. An estimated \$37 million would be needed to increase the NEH award rate to 25%, if only the most critically underfunded of NEH's grant competitions – including those for preservation of historically-significant collections and challenge grants to build institutional capacity – were boosted.

For more information, please contact American Association of Museums' Government Relations at 202-289-1818 or visit us online at www.speakupformuseums.org.

- NEH is well-positioned to provide leadership in support of increased U.S. global competency and competitiveness abroad, as well as civil engagement and understanding at home, as evidenced by the newly proposed Bridging Cultures national initiative.
- NEH is funded at \$167.5 million for FY 2010, including \$99.6 million for national programs and \$40.4 million for federal/state partnership.
- We encourage House members to sign on to the letter of support for NEH funding being circulated by Congressmen Price and Petri.

Status:

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is funded annually through the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The Obama Administration has requested \$161.3 million for the NEH, which includes a \$7.2 million reduction in program funding from FY 2010.*

Funding History:

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	FY 2004 enacted	FY 2005 enacted	FY 2006 enacted	FY 2007 enacted	FY 2008 enacted	FY 2009 enacted	FY 2010 enacted	FY 2011 proposed
Appropriation (in millions)	\$135.3	\$138.1	\$140.9	\$141.1	\$144.7	\$155.0	\$167.5	\$161.3

*The Obama Administration’s request for \$161.3 million for the NEH represents an overall cut of \$6.2 million to the agency as a whole. However, the budget request also proposes shifting an additional \$1 million from program funds to administrative costs, representing an overall proposed deduction of \$7.2 million to program funding.