

# FY 2011 Federal Humanities Funding Priorities

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## National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. As one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, NEH provides critical support for humanities *research, education, preservation, and public programs* through grants to a wide range of educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and individual scholars nationwide.

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to provide \$204 million in program funds for the National Endowment for the Humanities in FY 2011, a \$64 million increase over FY 2010. This includes \$144 million for NEH National Programs (a \$44.4 million increase), and \$60 million for the NEH Federal/State Partnership (a \$19.6 million increase). Within new funds for National Programs, we request \$36.9 million to increase the award rate for NEH's critically underfunded grant competitions, and \$7.5 million to support a new, competitively-awarded graduate student-faculty program.

- NEH serves as a unique source of funding for institutions supporting our nation's infrastructure for humanities education and research, from colleges and universities, to schools, museums, libraries, historical societies, scholarly associations, and other nonprofit organizations. Our request would: help restore NEH to historical funding levels; offset severe economic pressures on the academic workforce through fellowships and engagement in other project activity; and bolster educational institutions and nonprofit organizations around the country as they struggle to maintain continued access to high-quality programming and educational opportunities in the humanities as the impact of the economic downturn continues to deepen.

*We strongly oppose cuts for NEH program funds totaling \$7.2 million in the President's FY 2011 Budget Request.*

**Current funding status** • NEH is funded at \$167.5 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010), which represents a much-needed increase of \$12.5 million approved by Congress over FY 2009. *NEH did not receive funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.* For FY 2011, The Obama Administration has requested \$161.3 million in overall funding for NEH, including \$132.8 million for programs and \$28.5 million for administration. The President's Budget represents a \$7.2 million (5.6%) cut to NEH program funds for FY 2011. *NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

## National Historical Publications and Records Commission

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), commonly referred to as the 'grant-making' arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), was established by Congress in 1934, along with NARA, to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record. NHPRC grants support a wide range of activities to preserve and increase 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 U.S.

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to provide FY 2011 grants funding of at least \$10 million, the figure requested in the President's budget, for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. NHPRC is a small, but vitally important body within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). We also support and seek Congressional approval of a five-year reauthorization of the NHPRC's grants program at the \$20 million level. This would allow NHPRC to accommodate growing demand for project support, particularly to increase electronic access and to promote federal/state partnerships.

**Current funding status** • The NHPRC is funded at \$13.0 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010). We are grateful to Congress for this appropriation, which includes \$4.5 million designated for a one-time initiative to digitize both the published volumes and unpublished papers of the nation's Founding Fathers and make these materials freely accessible online. For FY 2011, the Obama Administration has requested \$10 million in grants funding for the NHPRC, which constitutes an increase of \$1.5 million for regular grants. *The NHPRC grants program is funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.*

## HEA-Title VI/Fulbright Hays International Education Programs

The U.S. Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language Studies (IEFLS) programs, including HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, form the vital infrastructure of the federal government's investment in the international expertise pipeline. The 14 IEFLS programs support comprehensive language and area study centers with the United States, research and curriculum development, opportunities for American scholars to study and conduct research abroad, and activities to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in international service. Administrative responsibility for these programs falls under the Office of Postsecondary Education, International Education Programs Service.

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to provide FY 2011 funding of \$176.8 million for HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, as recommended by the Coalition for International Education (CIE). This level constitutes a \$51 million increase over FY 2010, and includes: \$153.8 million for Title VI-A&B --a \$45.4 million increase; \$19.8 million for Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6) --a \$4.2 million increase; and \$3.2 million for the Institute for International Public Policy, Title VI-C --a \$1.3 million increase over FY 2010. A significant infusion of new funding is needed to restore Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs to their historic levels, encourage strategic collaborations within and among educational institutions, and make critical investments in the nation's future.

**Current funding status** • Title VI and Fulbright-Hays international education programs are funded at \$125.9 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010), broken out as follows:

- Domestic Programs (HEA-Title VI, Parts A&B): \$108.40 million (a \$6.025 million increase)
- Overseas Programs (Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)): \$15.6 million (a \$867,000 increase)
- Institute for International Public Policy (HEA-Title VI-Part C, IIPP): \$1.9 million (a \$108,000 increase)

Final funding for FY 2010 constitutes an overall increase of \$7 million over the previous year. For FY 2011, the Obama Administration has requested flat funding of \$125.9 million for these programs at FY 2010 levels. *Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs are funded under the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

## Foreign Language Assistance Program

The Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) is a discretionary grant program funded under Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. FLAP provides 3-year grants to establish, improve, or expand innovative foreign language programs for elementary and secondary school students. FLAP also provides grants to state education agencies to promote systemic approaches to improving foreign language learning in the state. In recent years, Congress has set aside roughly 30% of FLAP funds for 5-year grants to local education agencies that work in partnership with institutions of higher education to establish or expand articulated programs of study in languages critical to U.S. national security. *The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students (OELA).*

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to provide FY 2011 funding of \$32 million for the Foreign Language Assistance Program, as recommended by the Coalition for International Education (CIE). This level constitutes roughly a \$5 million increase over FY 2010. Additional funding is needed to encourage more effective K-12 foreign language programs, especially at the elementary levels, as well as partnerships with institutions of higher education. As a dedicated, federal funding stream for K-12 foreign language education, this program addresses a national need to foster skill sets supporting U.S. security and global economic competitiveness.

**Current funding status** • FLAP is funded at \$26.9 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010). For FY 2011, the Obama Administration has proposed to eliminate FLAP as an individually funded program and instead consolidate it into a new authority called "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education" along with seven other programs in economics, history, civic education and the arts. *FLAP is funded under the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

## Teaching American History Grants

The Teaching American History (TAH) grant program is a discretionary grant competition funded under Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The largest single source of federal funding for history education in the U.S., the goal of TAH is to support projects that raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of American history. The program provides competitive awards to local educational agencies, and requires that LEAs agree to carry out the proposed activities "in partnership with one or more of the following: institutions of higher education, nonprofit history or humanities organizations, libraries, or museums." TAH is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement.

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to provide FY 2011 funding of \$120 million for the Teaching American History grants program within the U.S. Department of Education, maintaining recent levels appropriated for TAH as a discretionary program line.

**Current funding status** • The Teaching American History grants program is funded at \$119.0 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010). This level represents a nominal increase over FY 2009 (\$118.9 million) and FY 2008 (\$117.9 million). For FY 2011, the Obama Administration has proposed to eliminate the Teaching American History as an individually funded program, and instead consolidate it into a new authority called "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education", along with seven other programs emphasizing higher education partnerships and content-based activities. The President's Budget does not provide a FY 2011 allocation for Teaching American History or the consolidated programs. The new "Well-Rounded Education" authority would emphasize "accountability" and "flexibility" for state and local education agencies over current, field-specific opportunities. *Teaching American History grants are funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

## Institute of Museum & Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. The IMLS Office of Museum Services (OMS) awards grants to all types of museums to support care of collections, lifelong learning, and museums research.

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to provide \$50 million in FY 2011 funding for the IMLS Office of Museum Services, as recommended by the American Association of Museums (AAM). Our request constitutes an increase of roughly \$15 million over FY 2010. In addition, we support the museum community in urging Congress to reauthorize the Office of Museum Services, within IMLS, at \$95 million incrementally over the 5-year reauthorization period.

**Current funding status** • The IMLS Office of Museum Services is funded at \$35.2 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010). For FY 2011, the Obama Administration has requested \$265.9 million in overall funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including \$35.2 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$213.5 million for library programs. The President's request would freeze IMLS funding at the FY 2010 enacted levels for the Institute's programs and administration. *IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

## Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program

The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program, within the U.S. Department of Education, provides up to 4 years of competitively awarded support to students of superior academic ability and high financial need who are pursuing doctoral degrees, or the highest terminal degree, in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. It is the *only* federal fellowship program that provides financial support to students pursuing graduate degrees in the humanities and arts. The Javits Fellowship Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education.

**Action Needed** • We urge Congress to support FY 2011 funding of \$16.0 million for the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program, as recommended by the Association of American Universities and the Council of Graduate Schools. Our request constitutes an increase of \$6.3 million over FY 2010. This increase would support 125 new fellows, and would begin an expansion of the program to 200 new fellows annually -- the original intended size of the program -- by 2013.

**Current funding status** • The Javits Fellowship Program is funded at \$9.7 million in the current fiscal year (FY 2010), roughly level with funding for FY 2009 (\$9.7 million) and FY 2008 (\$9.5 million). For FY 2011, the Obama Administration has requested continued flat funding of \$9.7 million for Javits Fellowships. *The Javits Program is funded under the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill.*