



## Federal Funding Programs for Archives and Historical Records

Just three modestly funded federal agencies provide grants to support preservation of and access to archival materials for future generations - the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. **We urge Congress to ensure stable funding for these granting agencies in FY20 and beyond.**

### Why Support NHPRC, NEH, and IMLS?

Each of these agencies has a distinguished history of supporting the work of archival repositories within academic institutions, local and state governments, museums, and public libraries, to ensure that the nation's social, cultural, economic, scientific, and political experience is available to future generations. Grants to archives and historical records projects are a productive investment of federal funds. Grants:

- **Ensure the preservation and accessibility of documentation**, especially in electronic form, to a wide array of users.
- **Create jobs.** Analysis of existing projects shows that at least 75% of funds are used for staff. Jobs mean purchase of goods and services in local communities.
- **Foster tourism.** Visitors to archives contribute to local economies via dollars spent on housing, food, and entertainment. The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) estimates that visitors to state archives alone contribute between \$2.5 and \$5 million annually to local economies.
- **Stimulate private support.** Grant recipients typically are required to match federal funds up to 50 percent of the overall project budget.

**We ask Congress to support FY20 increase funding at the following levels:**

- NHPRC: \$10 million
- NEH: \$167.5 million
- IMLS: \$38.6 million for Museum Services and \$232 million for Library Programs

### National Historical Publications and Records Commission

As the grant-making arm of the National Archives and Records Administration, NHPRC is the only federal program that focuses solely on archives and records programs and projects — and thus the only federal program that supports Americans' right and need to know both their heritage and the workings of their public offices. During the past 40 years, NHPRC has:

- Supported innovation at state and local levels that has had a major impact on federal records.
- Awarded \$175 million in grants to more than 4,500 state and local government archives, colleges and universities, and other institutions and non-profit groups.
- Encouraged use of funds for various purposes—preserving historical records, digitizing collections, producing oral histories, publishing documentary editions, establishing new archives programs, all to preserve and provide access to records of national impact and importance.

*NHPRC is funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.*

## National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

As one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States, NEH provides crucial support for research, education, preservation, and public programs, including vital support to archives nationwide. NEH funds research that leads to new digital tools, technologies, national standards, best practices, and other methodologies that ensure the preservation of archival and cultural resources. NEH funding reaches every state, territory, and Congressional district. And because it supports the training of archives staff, the funding helps sustain basic preservation activities at small and mid-size archives, libraries, and other historical organizations. *NEH is funded under the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.*

## Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums, many of which maintain archives and special collections that enrich scholarly learning and civic engagement. IMLS grants:

- Foster broad public access to knowledge, heritage, and lifelong learning.
- Invest in research and development that yields long-term benefits to the public.
- Enable institutions to develop the latest technology, to digitize and share their collections, and to develop new standards and protocols for preserving and providing access to born-digital data and records.

In its role as a federal agency, IMLS provides important leadership through its support for research and policy development, as well as development of best practices to enable archives, libraries, and museums to improve their services and processes.

*IMLS is funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.*

Sponsored by:

The **Council of State Archivists (CoSA)** is a nonprofit membership organization of the state and territorial government archives in the fifty states, five territories, and District of Columbia. Through collaborative research, education, and advocacy, CoSA provides leadership that strengthens and supports state and territorial archives in their work to preserve and provide access to government records. CoSA facilitates networking, information sharing, and project collaboration among its member organizations to help state and territorial government archives with their responsibilities for protecting the rights and historical documents of the American people. Read more at [www.statearchivists.org](http://www.statearchivists.org).

The **National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA)** is dedicated to the improvement of federal, state, and local government records and information management and the professional development of government records administrators and archivists. Members include county, municipal, and special district governments; state agencies (state records centers, archives, and libraries); federal agencies and employees; public universities; and provincial and institutional programs. Read more at [www.nagara.org](http://www.nagara.org).

The **Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC)** provides a venue for information exchange among the leaders of regional archival organizations and between the regional organizations and the Society of American Archivists. RAAC fosters collaboration to streamline actions, reduce costs, and increase services to archivists around the nation in such areas as advocacy, public awareness, education, disaster planning/recovery, and grant development. Read more at [www.archivists.org/groups/regional-archival-associations-consortium-raac](http://www.archivists.org/groups/regional-archival-associations-consortium-raac).

The **Society of American Archivists (SAA)** is the oldest and largest national professional association of archivists in North America, representing more than 6,200 archivists employed by businesses, universities, governments, libraries, and historical organizations. Archivists are the professionals who collect, preserve, and make available for research historically significant documents, vital records, and other materials. Read more at [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org).