



**Support the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)  
and the  
National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**

**Action Needed**

We urge Congress to provide no less than \$425 million in FY 2020 funding for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), including at least \$10 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the agency.

*The National Archives and NHPRC are funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.*

**Funding Overview**

Increased federal spending for the National Archives is necessary to manage, preserve, and make accessible the federal government’s records. NARA’s budget was decreased last year even as Congress has placed additional responsibilities on the agency.

**NARA and NHPRC Annual Appropriations, FY 2010 to Present** (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
NARA	\$339	\$339	\$373	\$353	\$370	\$365	\$372	\$380.6	\$384.6	\$373
NHPRC	\$13	\$10	\$5	\$4.75	\$4.5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$6	\$6

**About NARA and NHPRC**

Congress established the **National Archives and Records Administration** in 1934 to manage, preserve, and make accessible to the public the records of the U.S. Government. American citizens rely on access to immigration, naturalization, military, and census records held by the National Archives for many research or other needs and for veterans and their families to gain access to benefits. It also coordinates the declassification of federal records, ensuring compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. NARA oversees records management for federal agencies and provides a vital range of services that ensure efficient, effective, and transparent recordkeeping. NARA is also known to the public as the keeper of original copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. NARA now has over 40 facilities nationwide, including 14 presidential libraries.

The **National Historical Publications and Records Commission** (NHPRC) promotes 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.

- The NHPRC supports publications projects of national significance, such as the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution project, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and the Papers of George Washington.
- The NHPRC provides grants to State Historical Records Advisory Boards in each state, to support increased access to records.
- These grants leverage state, local, institutional, foundation, and other private funding by requiring 50 percent cost sharing.
- Additional funding would be directed to making records accessible in preparation for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence – the US Semiquincentennial.

#### **NARA's Funding Has Stagnated While Demands on It Have Increased**

- The number of documents produced by federal agencies has increased exponentially with the transition to electronic records, yet NARA has the same number of employees as in 1985.
- In recent years, Congress has placed additional responsibilities on NARA, including the transition from the preservation and storage of paper records to electronic ones, the reduction of backlogs of records awaiting declassification, and the management of new presidential libraries.
- Current funding levels are not adequate to accommodate public needs for accessibility and government accountability. In recent years, NARA has been forced to cut back on research hours at its facilities because of lack of funding.

#### 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).