



## 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 FY19 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, historical societies, 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. They:

- **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 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.

### Please support FY19 funding for the federal agencies that provide grants to archives and historical records programs:

NHPRC: At least level funding of \$6 million.

NEH: At least level funding of \$149.8 million.

IMLS: At least level funding of \$38.6 million for the Office of Museum Services and \$182.7 million for the Library Programs.

**And please support reauthorization of NHPRC at \$10 million and IMLS at \$295.1 million.**

*[See more about these important agencies on the reverse of this page.]*

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## **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 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.*

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