



---

## Capitol Hill Day – June 13, 2019

### Research Funding

The AAUP opposes the Trump administration's drastic cuts in funding to the humanities and to scientific and social science research in the president's proposed FY 2020 budget. The humanities enhance our personal lives, as well as the nation's cultural life, and are vital in promoting an informed citizenry. Scientific and social science research is crucial in crafting evidence-based policies and making informed and effective policy decisions. What follows are the AAUP's positions regarding funding in several key areas.

#### The National Archives and Records Administration

The Trump Administration has recommended funding of \$345.6 million for NARA Operating Expenses in Fiscal Year 2020, which is \$27.4 million less than the FY 19 level of \$373 million. We urge you to support funding NARA at a level of \$410 million for FY 20. The American public relies on access to immigration and naturalization and census records (held by NARA) to conduct daily activities. Veterans and their families rely on military records (held by NARA) to gain access to their benefits. And, in recent years, NARA has been forced to cut back on public services and research hours at its facilities because of lack of funding. NARA, managing 40 facilities and 14 presidential libraries, serves as the nexus for the declassification of federal records, ensuring compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. NARA is also known to the public as the keeper of original copies of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. We are disappointed that the President has chosen to target programs at the National Archives that facilitate public access to the agency's holdings and provide individuals with the historical context to appreciate and understand our democratic heritage. Increased federal spending for archives is necessary to manage, preserve, and make accessible the federal government's records.

#### National Endowment for the Humanities

We urge Congress to provide no less than \$167.5 million in FY 2020 funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities and to forcefully reject any efforts to eliminate the agency. Despite some recent increases, NEH funding has declined by about 20 percent since 2010. Among the valuable work that the NEH does is provide training for thousands of school, college, and university teachers and reaching tens of millions of Americans with television and radio documentaries, museum exhibitions, and reading and discussion programs in museums and libraries across the nation. Since its inception in 1977, grants made through the NEH Challenge Grants program have leveraged federal funds at a ratio of 3:1, raising \$3,152,110,194 in private support for humanities projects. Grants for research have resulted in the publication of nearly 8,400 books, including 17 Pulitzer Prize winners and 22 Bancroft Prize winners.

### National Science Foundation

We urge Congress to provide no less than \$9 billion to the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF supports about a quarter of all federally-funded basic scientific research conducted at colleges and universities nationwide. NSF-funded research has proven vital to the nation's economic growth, national security, and overall global competitiveness in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) development and education. Notably, the agency serves as the largest single funder of basic social and behavioral science research. Though the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)—one of seven research directorates at NSF—represents less than 5% of the entire NSF research budget, it supports around two-thirds of total federal funding for academic basic research in the social and behavioral sciences (excluding psychology).

### International Education

For FY 2020, we urge Congress to provide at least \$106.1 million in funding for the Department of Education's Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, including \$95.7 million for Title VI and \$10.4 million for Fulbright-Hays. These programs are crucial to addressing the critical need for expertise in foreign languages and deep knowledge of all world regions. Deep cuts implemented in FY 2011 severely eroded our international education and foreign language infrastructure. These cuts resulted in 25% fewer resource centers, 18% fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships, fewer training opportunities for students and teachers, and fewer outreach activities to government and business. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays have still not recovered from those reductions. Many of our most pressing challenges at home and abroad are global in nature – from climate change, pandemics, and refugee crises, to food security and threats to communications, transportation, and financial systems. These challenges require a workforce with international, cultural, and language skills in many disciplines.

### National Historic Publications and Records Commission

The Trump Administration is also proposing elimination of the NHPRC grants program. We urge you to reject this proposal and to support funding for NHPRC at a level of \$10 million. NHPRC funding has been cut substantially in recent years, and it is important to ensure that its capacity not be depleted further. The grants-making arm of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), NHPRC was established by Congress in 1934 to promote the preservation and use of the American documentary record. NHPRC grants support many activities to preserve and increase access to historical records and to publish the papers of significant figures, including Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and themes relating to the history of the United States.

### Institute of Museum and Library Services

For FY 2020, we urge Congress to support funding for the Institute of Museum & Library Services. This request includes full funding for the Office of Museum Services, which is authorized at \$38.6 million, and \$232 million for library programs through the Library Services and Technology Act. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The mission of the IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. In addition to grant-making, the IMLS provides critical leadership to the museum and library communities through support for research and policy development.