



## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

### **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Spending Plan for CARES Act Funds**

In accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Section 15011(b)(1)(B) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Public Law 116-136), this letter transmits the spending plan of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the supplemental funding provided to the agency in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

NEH received \$75 million in supplemental funding to assist cultural institutions and individuals affected by the coronavirus as part of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act economic stabilization plan appropriated by Congress and signed into law by President Donald J. Trump in March 2020. At the time, the cultural sector in the United States was reporting losses of \$1 billion a month as the spread of the virus forced the cancellation of education programs, exhibitions, festivals, and other cultural events.

Congress instructed NEH to distribute 40 percent of the \$75 million appropriation, or \$30 million, directly to its state and jurisdictional councils to support local cultural nonprofits and educational programming across the nation. These councils may use CARES Act funds to support subawards to eligible entities for programming and general operating support, but they may not use these funds for their unrelated general operating support.

Within two weeks of receiving the funds, NEH obligated more than \$29.5 million to these councils. Through the regranting of this emergency federal support, NEH estimates it will reach an estimated audience of 137 million people.

The remaining \$45 million will support cultural organizations and projects at museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, colleges and universities, and other cultural nonprofits that have been financially impacted by the coronavirus. Funding will be provided to U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, public and 501(c)(3) accredited institutions of higher education, state and local governmental agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments. Funds will be awarded through competitive funding opportunities, cooperative agreements, sole-source awards and contracts, supplements to existing awards, and Chairman's grants. NEH CARES Act funding is available to all organizations usually eligible.

On April 20, 2020, NEH announced new grant guidelines to distribute approximately \$40 million in CARES Act funding to cultural nonprofits affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This new funding opportunity, NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations, provides grants of up to \$300,000 to sustain cultural organizations and preserve jobs in the cultural sector by supporting activities across the fields of education, preservation and access, public programming, digital humanities, and scholarly research through December 2020. Funding could be used for short-term activities that emphasize retaining or hiring humanities staff at cultural organizations across the country to maintain or adapt critical programs during the pandemic. Applications were accepted through May 11, 2020.

For this highly competitive grant category, NEH received more than 2,300 eligible applications from cultural organizations requesting more than \$370 million in funding for projects between June and December 2020. On June 22, 2020, NEH announced that it had obligated approximately \$40 million in CARES Act economic stabilization grants to support essential operations at more than 300 cultural institutions across the country, and to preserve thousands of jobs at museums, archives, historic sites, and colleges and universities that are vital to our nation’s cultural life and economy. Approximately 14 percent of the applicants were funded across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

NEH expects to distribute an additional \$5 million of emergency relief funding for independent scholars, cultural heritage professionals, teachers, and other individuals economically impacted by the coronavirus.

As the table below shows, NEH will obligate approximately \$70 million in CARES Act funds within the first two quarters of receiving the funds, and the remaining \$5 million within the next quarter, putting the agency well ahead of schedule.

<b>CARES Act / Relief Quarters</b>	<b>Obligations – Initial Proposal</b>	<b>Obligations – Actual/Updated Proposal</b>
Q1: Apr. 1, - Jun. 30, 2020	\$30M to state councils; \$10M to other cultural organizations	\$29.5 M to state councils; \$578,281 to other cultural organizations
Q2: Jul. 1 – Sept. 30, 2020	\$5M	\$465,700 to state councils; \$40M to other cultural organizations
Q3: Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2020	\$20M	\$5M
Q4: Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2021	\$5M	
Q3: Apr. 1 – Jun. 30, 2021	\$5M	
Q4: Jul. 1 – Sept. 30, 2021		

In addition to this plan, please see the NEH press release (<https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-receives-75-million-distribute-cultural-institutions-affected-coronavirus>) and the related FAQs ([https://www.neh.gov/COVID19\\_FAQs](https://www.neh.gov/COVID19_FAQs)) on the agency website.

NEH is grateful to Congress and to the President for entrusting to the agency this critical emergency relief work, which is so vital to the maintenance of the country's rich cultural sector.