



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES & NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

FOR FY2026, THE U OF I
SYSTEM REQUESTS **\$225
MILLION FOR NEH & \$225
MILLION FOR NEA.**

NEH

FY2025 = \$207M

FY2024 = \$207M

FY2023 = \$207M

NEA

FY2025 = \$207M

FY2024 = \$207M

FY2023 = \$207M

Appropriations Bill: Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies

Agency: National Endowment for the
Humanities & National Endowment for the Arts

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

NEH is the most important source of federal funding for research and scholarship in the humanistic fields, including history, literature, and foreign languages. With a limited federal budget, NEH is able to expand cultural and historical scholarship into K-12 classrooms, sponsor humanistic research and scholarship, and support preservation and exhibition efforts at libraries and museums.

In the first 50 years since the founding of the NEH, institutions in the state of Illinois collectively received more funding than those of any other state in the Midwest region.

The University of Illinois Press [has released](#) 36 backlist titles as e-books, thanks to the support of an NEH grant.

NEH-Supported Projects at UIUC

The NEH budget includes crucial support for humanities scholarship that reaches outside the academy to educate and inform the general public—a direction UIUC has also taken through programming at the [Humanities Research Institute](#) (HRI). HRI also administers the internal competition for campus nominees to the NEH Summer Stipend program, which aims to stimulate new research in the humanities and its publication, and has funded many UIUC faculty.

UIUC had two faculty members who were among the 82 scholars from across the nation who were [awarded](#) NEH Fellowships for 2023. The Fellowships are highly competitive, with 1,120 applicants competing, on average, for the prestigious award.

A UIUC faculty member [received](#) a Digital Humanities Advanced Grant in early 2024 to develop a method to computationally identify the paratextual elements within the digitized book collections in the HathiTrust Research Library.

NEH-Supported Projects at UIC

UIC's [Institute for the Humanities](#) seeks to foster an intellectually vital, interdisciplinary community of scholars. As the hub of humanities scholarship on campus, the Institute provides a forum for intellectual exchange among faculty and students at UIC and other colleges and universities in the region.

UIC's School of Art and Art History in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts has [received](#) a two-year, \$180,000 grant from the NEH to study how Gallery 400 and the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum can be more environmentally sustainable.

NEH-Supported Projects at UIS

Building on its location in the home town of Abraham Lincoln, the University of Illinois Springfield recently established a [Center for Lincoln Studies](#) that is expected to grow into a national center for scholarship, teaching, and public history centered on Abraham Lincoln's life, leadership, and legacy. As it reaches full strength, the Center will facilitate research and scholarship by developing curriculum, offering public history interpretation, hosting visiting scholars, engaging broad campus and public audiences, and offering an interdisciplinary learning laboratory for undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to being supported by private gifts, the Center will pursue relevant federal funding opportunities and partnerships at appropriate agencies to

support programming, research, publishing and dissemination of materials, hosting of events, and other relevant activities.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

Funding from the NEA has helped ensure that our communities—especially underserved or rural communities—receive support to enhance their cultural, artistic, and innovative opportunities in the arts. The past 10 years have seen nearly \$500,000 of awards from the NEA to projects across the U of I System.

In the past five years, the NEA distributed \$27.7M in federal funding, either directly or through state and regional partners, in Illinois. Support of this kind for regional arts ventures ensures the presence of a lively arts culture and economy, where our graduates are often leading contributors within the state's creative workforce.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

IMLS is an important source of funding for libraries, museums, and archives in Illinois, and for information science research. Strong funding for IMLS will assure continued investment in nationwide initiatives that broaden access to information, improve student outcomes, and foster literacy.

In the past five years, IMLS awarded 22 grants to the University of Illinois, providing nearly \$5.3M of direct support. These awards supported a range of activities, including improved library services, student success initiatives, the conservation of library and archives resources, the digitization of unique collections, and the development of standards and best practices. IMLS support has also been critical in helping early-career faculty develop innovative information-science research, in topics such as artificial intelligence and the credibility of scientific research. Currently, the Urbana-Champaign Library is applying for a grant to better understand and address structural barriers affecting library professionals.

Complementing its direct grant programs, IMLS supports library services through a population-based appropriation, provided annually through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States

Program. In 2024, \$5.7M was provided to Illinois, supporting projects and programs throughout the state. Subwards made through the LSTA have been particularly critical in supporting young people through public library/community partnerships.



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