



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Office of
Challenge Grants

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NEH Challenge Grants Program

Purpose: NEH Challenge Grants support the **long-term** strength of humanities institutions and organizations by encouraging fund raising for permanent endowments and appropriate capital improvements.

Eligibility: With the exception of elementary and secondary schools, any U.S. nonprofit institution (public agency or private nonprofit organization) working wholly or in part within the humanities is eligible to apply. Typical applicants include colleges and universities, museums, public radio and television stations, research centers, public libraries, historical societies, historic sites, scholarly and cultural organizations, university presses.

Awards: The maximum award is \$1 million. Awards in recent years have averaged between \$375,000 and \$450,000. Grantees must raise nonfederal donations of three or four times the NEH funds.

Impact: Since the program's inception in 1977, over 1,260 awards totaling nearly \$370 million in federal dollars have leveraged nearly **\$1.27 billion** in nonfederal contributions to the humanities.

Competition: In recent years the number of applications to the program has ranged from 89 to 114, and the number of awards has ranged between 21 and 30. Applications arrive at a May 1 deadline, are reviewed by panels over the summer, and are presented to the National Council for the Humanities at its November meeting.

Budget: The program's budget has remained level at around \$10 million since 1995.

Staff: **Stephen M. Ross** Director

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