

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Information Services Summary

Fiscal Year 2014 (10/1/2013–3/31/2014)

Providing responses to member questions—often within 24 hours—is an important component of NASAA's daily work. In the first six months of this fiscal year, NASAA staff fulfilled 286 information requests (a rate of nearly 3 requests per business day) from states, partners and the public. We answered questions about arts funding, the impact of the arts, and research available to support planning, evaluation, program design or policy decision making. NASAA also provided special services: speaking at statewide conferences, facilitating council meeting discussions and conducting custom research. For more information on these services, or to request information for your agency, contact [Ryan Stubbs](#).

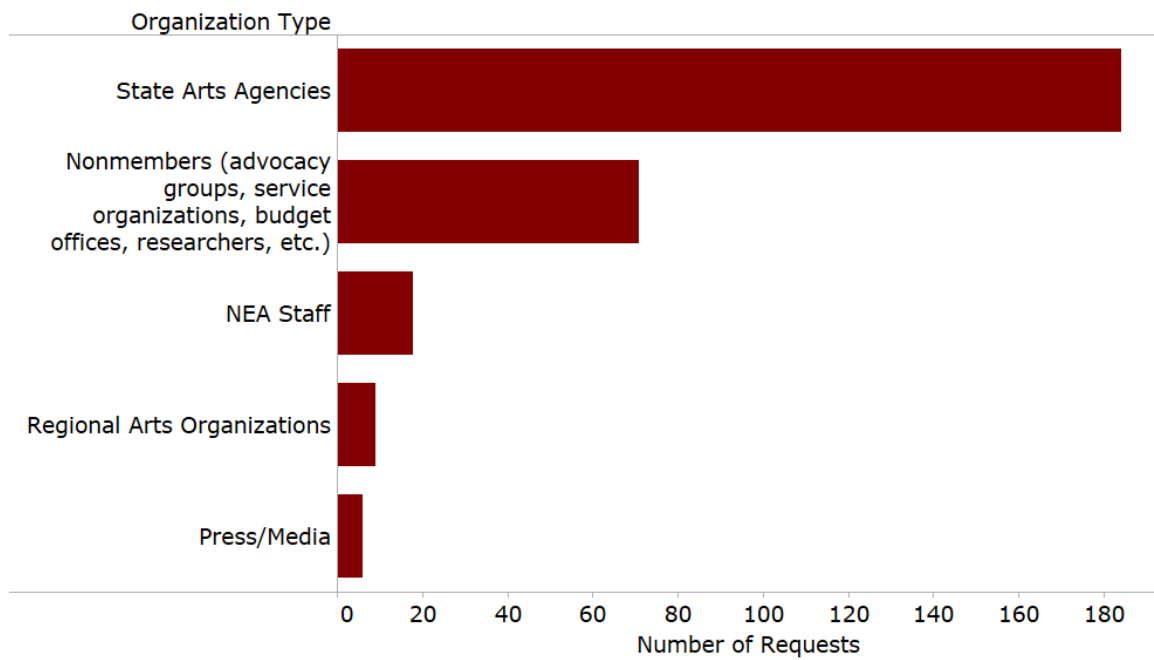
In the first half of fiscal year 2014, state arts agency information needs trended toward requests for data on revenues, staffing, grants management systems and questions regarding National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Final Descriptive Reports (see word cloud below). NASAA data are perennially updated to allow for rapid and accurate responses to the questions most frequently asked by NASAA members. In the first six months of this fiscal year, the NASAA research team has:

- secured fresh [revenue statistics](#) for all state arts agencies,
- managed [updates to data standards](#),
- expanded research resources on [why government should support the arts](#),
- renewed [grant-making statistics and summary fact sheets](#), and
- updated information on [state arts agency strategic plans](#), [economic impact studies](#), [structural placement](#) and other [key topics](#) available on the NASAA website.

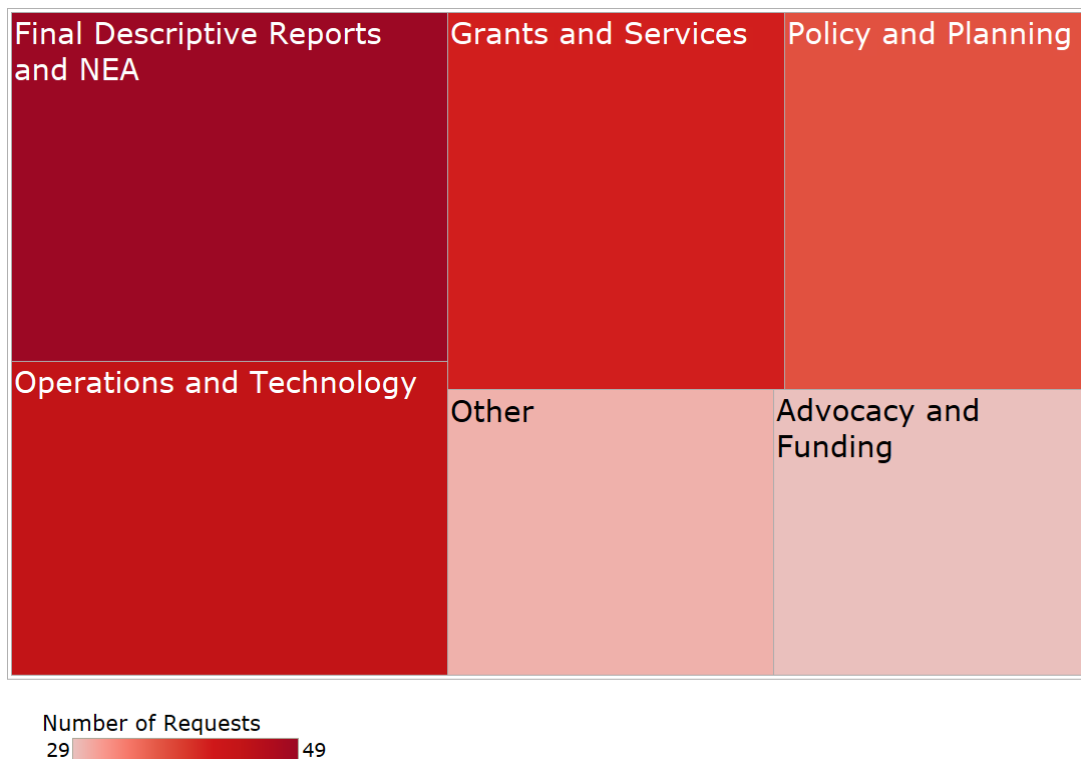
This work allows NASAA to manage high volumes of information requests and deliver timely and customized data, maps and reports.



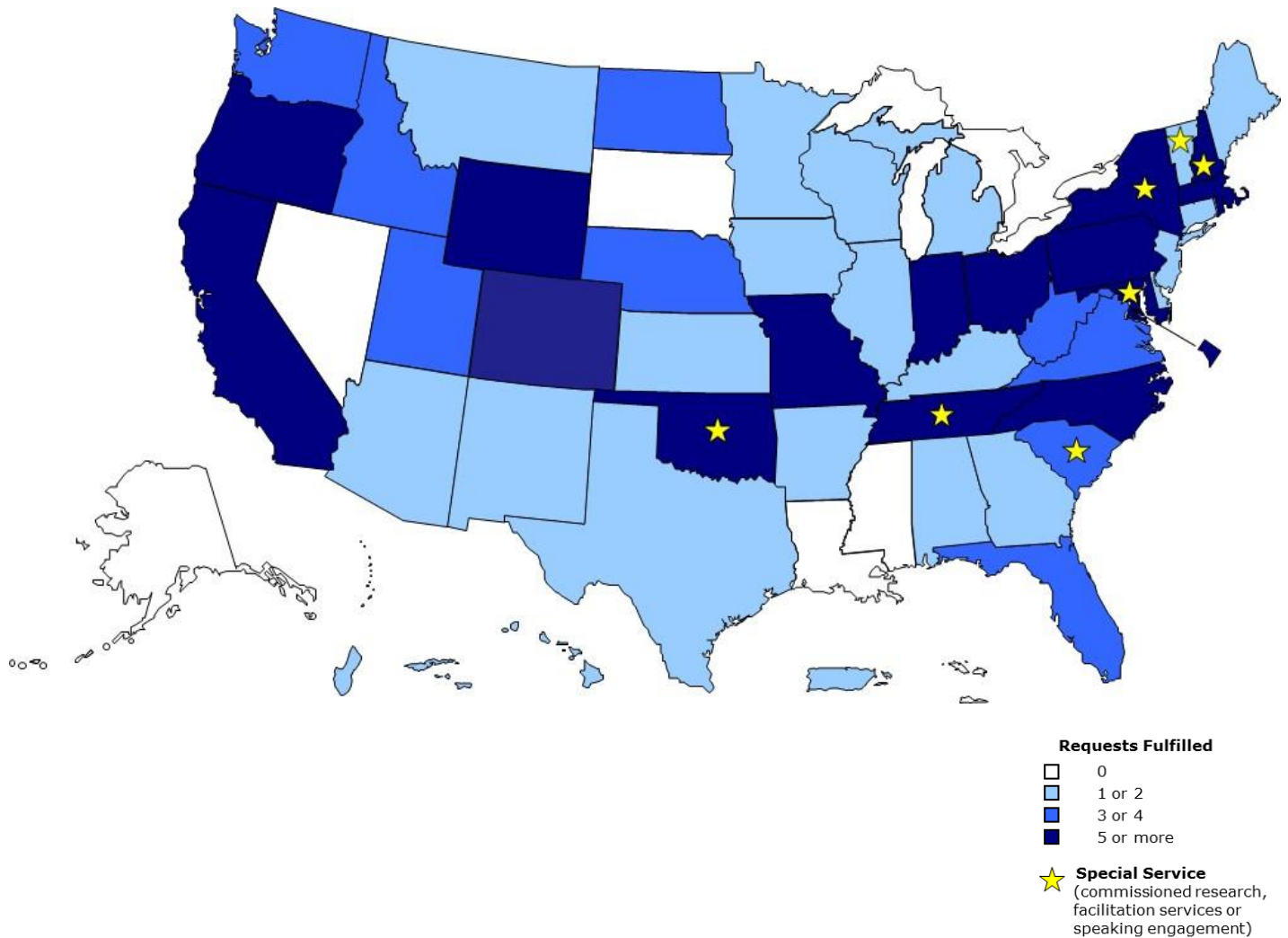
Information Requests by Organization Type



Information Requests by Topic



Information Requests by State Arts Agencies



"Inquiring Minds Want to Know..."

Examples of Information Requests (10/1/2013–3/31/2014)

Advocacy

- We are undergoing a consolidation threat. Do you have data and information on **state arts agency placement** to help us present facts to legislators?
- I need **data for a meeting with a member of Congress** to effectively communicate the importance of arts funding in my state and federal funding to the NEA.
- Can NASAA help prepare talking points for a presentation I'm working on regarding **advocacy and supplemental funding**?

Funding

- What is our state's **per capita ranking** this year? What amount of funding would we need to increase our ranking?
- Can you provide us with **current appropriations data** for our commission meeting?
- How many states have **cultural trusts**? Which have resulted in sustainable funding?
- Do you have a **historical table for per capita state rankings**?
- Can you tell me how **state arts agencies placed in particular departments** have fared over time in terms of funding?
- How do you define **base legislative appropriation** versus **total legislative appropriation**?

Grant-Making & Constituent Services

- What resources would you recommend for local/regional **cultural planning**?
- Do you have examples of state/municipal **economic development partnerships**?
- Do you know of helpful **creative place-making resources**?
- Which states have **decentralized grant-making** strategies in place?
- Could you provide a **comparative grants report** with charts specific to arts education and our five-year funding history?
- We are researching examples of state **cultural district programs**. Can you speak with us regarding different approaches?
- We are revising our grant policies for multiple programs. What **sample guidelines** should we review for models or inspiration?
- Which states have mandatory **percent for art** programs, and which are optional?
- Can you create **maps showing how grants from our agency are distributed**?

Policy & Planning

- I'm looking for models of agency **performance measurements**. Can you send NASAA's? How about examples from some other states?
- How do other states **support major/flagship organizations**? Are there any agencies that manage museums?
- We're revisiting our agency's **mission statement**. How do state arts agencies express their mission and purpose in brief form?
- I want to examine some **examples of good strategic plans** from other state arts agencies. I am especially interested in those that are concise, from very large states with an emphasis on relevance within state government.

Operations & Technology

- What information can you give me regarding the impact of a **federal shutdown** on the NEA and the states?
- We're recruiting a **new executive director**. Can you send me samples of other states' job postings, information on desired attributes and info on where to post the job?
- Can you provide **salary data** for arts education managers, executive directions, deputy directors, and public information officers in states similar to ours?
- We are looking for information about **administrative costs**. What portion of state arts agencies' budgets is typically spent on administration?
- What states integrate **contact management solutions** into their grants software?
- Do you know how many state use **on-line grants systems**?
- How are state arts agencies using **social media**?

NEA & Final Descriptive Report (FDR) Requirements

- What is going on with **new reporting requirements** from the NEA? How will this connect to what state arts agencies are already collecting?
- When will **DUNS numbers** be required by the NEA? For which grantees?
- Why does the **National Standard** "cheat sheet" have five project descriptors, whereas my database has eight?
- Can you send me a **sample FDR file** showing how our data should be structured?
- Can you send me the NEA reporting codes so I can instruct our database provider to **modify our system**?
- Where on the NEA website is the **Data Sequencing Form**?

Other

- What types of **standing committees do arts councils** typically have?
- From a research perspective, what **definitions of underserved** have you come across?
- Could NASAA have a **conversation with a local reporter** about funding for the arts?
- I'm new to the field. Can NASAA **recommend any good training programs**?
- Can you **recommend consultants** who can facilitate council conversations about board roles, agency transition, governance and board development?