

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## State Arts Appropriations Hold Steady in FY2016

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies remained essentially flat in fiscal year 2016, decreasing by 0.3%, according to the State Arts Agency Revenues report, published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).

Prior to FY2016, state arts agency revenues had risen for three consecutive fiscal years. These gains were preceded by extended periods of state revenue declines during and following the Great Recession. After a low point of \$260 million in FY2012, state arts agency appropriations gained \$90 million between FY2012 and FY2015. For FY2016, state legislative appropriations totaled \$349 million, equating to an investment of \$1.07 per capita. This is the second year in a row that state arts agency legislative appropriations have been above \$1.00 per capita.

"Investments in the arts help sustain diverse economies and thriving communities," said NASAA CEO Pam Breaux. "The innovative work of state arts agencies and their many partners in education, economic development, rural development, tourism and cultural heritage contribute invaluable to prosperous and culturally rich communities."

Although aggregate arts appropriations held steady, there were notable variations among individual states. Twenty-eight state arts agencies reported increases in 2016, with 15 states showing increases of 10% or more. Nineteen state arts agencies reported decreased funding, with a median percentage decrease of 6.3%. Nine state arts agencies reported flat funding. When line item appropriations (funds that pass through state arts agency budgets) are excluded, appropriations to state arts agencies increased by 3.4%.

Appropriations for the arts tend to reflect the condition of overall state budgets. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, enacted budgets in 43 states call for increased spending in FY2016. This marks six consecutive years of budget growth coupled with low inflation. However, there is sustained spending pressure for education, health care and pensions and more modest overall state revenue growth. In addition, states relying on coal, oil and gas production are feeling the pinch of reduced revenues from declining oil prices.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies is the membership organization of the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts. Additional information on [state arts agency funding](#) and [the impact of government support for the arts](#) is available on the [NASAA website](#).

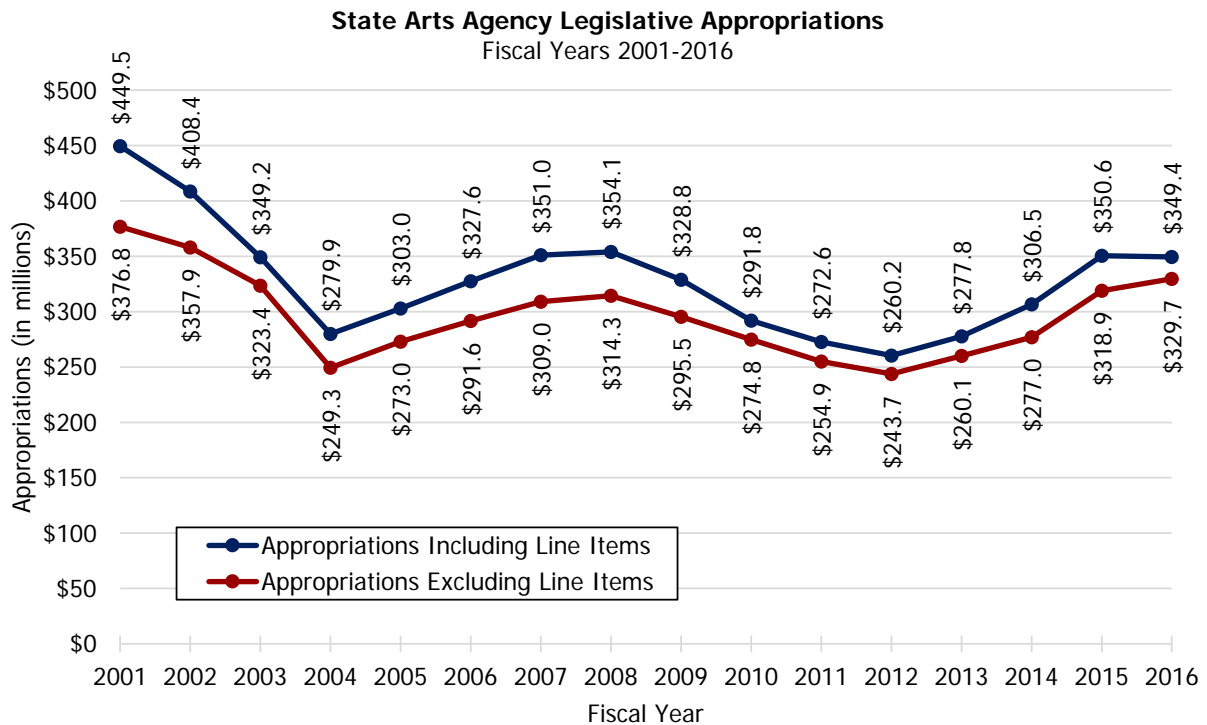
- Appropriations to state arts agencies comprise **0.040% (less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2016.
- States currently invest **\$349 million**—about \$1.07 per capita—in state arts agencies.
- State arts agencies use legislative appropriations to make nearly **21,000 grant awards** to organizations, schools and artists.
- **Public policy goals** addressed by state arts agencies include [economic development](#), [rural sustainability](#), [educational excellence](#) and [local](#) vitality.

### SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes Fiscal Years 2015-2016

Increases	
Number of SAAs	28
Number of SAAs up 10%+	15
Median percent increase	12.0%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	9
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	19
Number of SAAs down 10%+	7
Median percent decrease	-6.3%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	-0.3%
Median percent change	0.4%

\*Flat funding includes changes of less than 0.5% in magnitude.

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2016



Note: Line items are legislative appropriations not controlled by state arts agencies but rather passed through state arts agency budgets to other designated entities.

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2016

**Table 1: State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations**  
Fiscal Years 2015-2016

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items		Percent Change FY15 to FY16
	FY2015	FY2016	
Alabama	\$ 3,984,496	\$ 4,184,496	5.0%
Alaska	\$ 803,100	\$ 729,600	-9.2%
American Samoa	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	0.0%
Arizona	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 0	-100.0%
Arkansas	\$ 1,693,756	\$ 1,680,333	-0.8%
California	\$ 9,205,000	\$ 10,759,000	16.9%
Colorado	\$ 2,100,000	\$ 2,000,000	-4.8%
Connecticut ♦	\$ 7,094,512	\$ 5,722,670	-19.3%
Delaware	\$ 3,340,313	\$ 3,318,400	-0.7%
District of Columbia	\$ 15,803,000	\$ 16,955,248	7.3%
Florida ♦	\$ 47,060,421	\$ 36,966,322	-21.4%
Georgia	\$ 596,713	\$ 903,360	51.4%
Guam	\$ 356,660	\$ 451,064	26.5%
Hawai'i ♦	\$ 5,825,725	\$ 5,458,175	-6.3%
Idaho	\$ 702,000	\$ 759,400	8.2%
Illinois ♦	\$ 10,109,300	\$ 8,087,400	-20.0%
Indiana	\$ 2,831,912	\$ 3,323,048	17.3%
Iowa ^	\$ 1,233,764	\$ 1,233,764	0.0%
Kansas	\$ 200,000	\$ 190,046	-5.0%
Kentucky	\$ 2,767,300	\$ 2,796,200	1.0%
Louisiana	\$ 2,236,100	\$ 2,240,935	0.2%
Maine	\$ 765,923	\$ 974,629	27.2%
Maryland	\$ 15,418,982	\$ 17,463,432	13.3%
Massachusetts	\$ 11,785,200	\$ 14,160,000	20.2%
Michigan	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,000,000	0.0%
Minnesota	\$ 34,939,000	\$ 34,341,000	-1.7%
Mississippi	\$ 1,829,629	\$ 2,029,629	10.9%
Missouri	\$ 7,189,230	\$ 7,297,465	1.5%
Montana ^	\$ 556,683	\$ 550,545	-1.1%
Nebraska	\$ 1,507,157	\$ 1,793,989	19.0%
Nevada	\$ 1,234,258	\$ 1,653,316	34.0%
New Hampshire	\$ 393,761	\$ 291,489	-26.0%
New Jersey	\$ 16,396,000	\$ 16,396,000	0.0%
New Mexico	\$ 1,490,000	\$ 1,607,700	7.9%
New York	\$ 39,974,000	\$ 45,174,000	13.0%
North Carolina	\$ 7,291,266	\$ 7,648,977	4.9%
North Dakota	\$ 760,942	\$ 872,362	14.6%
Northern Marianas	\$ 223,820	\$ 215,694	-3.6%
Ohio	\$ 11,194,522	\$ 14,222,050	27.0%
Oklahoma	\$ 3,784,911	\$ 3,510,505	-7.2%
Oregon ^	\$ 2,309,101	\$ 2,052,340	-11.1%
Pennsylvania	\$ 9,530,000	\$ 9,590,000	0.6%
Puerto Rico	\$ 23,920,000	\$ 17,993,000	-24.8%
Rhode Island	\$ 2,237,440	\$ 2,906,054	29.9%
South Carolina	\$ 3,032,148	\$ 3,093,873	2.0%
South Dakota	\$ 789,847	\$ 835,817	5.8%
Tennessee	\$ 6,999,700	\$ 6,998,800	0.0%
Texas	\$ 5,824,288	\$ 7,770,714	33.4%
Utah	\$ 2,575,700	\$ 2,501,500	-2.9%
Vermont	\$ 645,307	\$ 645,307	0.0%
Virgin Islands	\$ 328,508	\$ 328,508	0.0%
Virginia	\$ 3,599,374	\$ 3,636,846	1.0%
Washington	\$ 1,093,000	\$ 1,118,000	2.3%
West Virginia	\$ 911,036	\$ 872,163	-4.3%
Wisconsin	\$ 780,000	\$ 795,700	2.0%
Wyoming	\$ 1,222,652	\$ 1,222,652	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 350,552,457</b>	<b>\$ 349,398,517</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>

**Table Notes**

♦ Percent change is significantly affected by a change in line items.

^ Figure reflects SAA appropriation only and does not include appropriation to the state's cultural endowment.

<sup>1</sup> **Arizona:** The agency will receive no legislative appropriation in FY2016, but will receive \$1.38 million in other state funds generated from state business license revenues. The agency's FY2015 legislative appropriation was in addition to these other state funds.

<sup>2</sup> **Georgia:** The increase for FY2016 is earmarked for a new grant program.

<sup>3</sup> **Illinois:** The FY2016 figure was taken from the governor's budget recommendation. The state had not passed a budget at the time of publication.

<sup>4</sup> **Maine:** The agency did not provide an update for FY2016. FY2016 information is taken from a survey completed by the agency in May 2015.

<sup>5</sup> **Pennsylvania:** While the state has not passed a full operating budget for 2016, a partial budget was passed including funds for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

<sup>6</sup> **Texas:** The agency received a \$5 million appropriation in FY2016 for cultural districts. The agency received permission to use these funds across the two years of the state's FY2016-2017 biennium, and therefore only half of that amount is reflected in the FY2016 appropriation. This portion of the agency's appropriation is contingent upon the generation of sufficient revenues within these cultural districts.

<sup>7</sup> **Virgin Islands:** FY2016 budget approvals for the agency have not taken place, so the agency currently is operating within FY2015 funding parameters.

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2016