The federal government invests nearly $150 million in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). By law, 40% of NEA grant funds are allocated to state arts agencies and regional arts organizations.

The 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) receive most of their funds from state government. They combine $358 million in state funds with NEA money to support arts and culture at the state level. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) represents all of the state arts agencies.

Counties and municipalities invest in the arts, spending an estimated $827 million on local arts activities. Local arts agencies are represented by Americans for the Arts. Many state arts agencies also are members.

**Total Investment = $1.3 billion**

How Funds Are Distributed

In addition to Partnership Agreement block grants to states and regions, the NEA uses federal funds to award 2,400 direct grants each year.

The 56 SAAs award around 20,000 grants each year, using state and federal dollars. Grants go to arts organizations, individual artists, civic groups and schools.

Local arts agencies spend their funds on a mixture of grassroots grants and direct arts programs, such as festivals, exhibitions and public art.

Most SAAs belong to one of six regional arts organizations (RAOs). RAOs are nonprofit groups that use private, SAA and NEA funds for multi-state programs.

Learn more on line!
**Who Benefits?**

Public arts funding reaches people in all geographies...

...and supports all art forms.

- 43% of NEA-sponsored projects take place in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- 36% of NEA grants reach underserved populations such as people with disabilities, people in institutions, and veterans.
- 25% of all SAA grants are awarded to rural communities.
- 54% of SAA grants are awarded to lower income counties.

**What Are the Outcomes?**

- **Health**
  The arts improve health outcomes for patients, including the military and the aging.

- **Leverage**
  Each $1 of public funding leverages another $9 in local and private investment.

- **Jobs**
  The creative industries employ nearly 5 million workers, more than 3% of all U.S. jobs.

- **Economy**
  The arts contribute $764 billion to the U.S. economy and generate a $20 billion trade surplus.

- **Education**
  Arts education spurs higher achievement and reduces school dropout rates.

- **Innovation**
  Public support for the arts fuels creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

- **Engagement**
  The arts increase civic involvement and community volunteerism.

**Get the Facts**

[The Arts & America's Bottom Line](#)

[Why Should Government Support the Arts?](#)
Who Makes the Case?

Advocacy at the federal, state and local levels:

Most states have **citizen advocacy groups** that advocate for both federal and state arts support. Some also advocate locally.

Some **regional arts organizations** support advocacy at the federal and/or state levels.

**NASAA** advocates for federal support, with a focus on the policy interests of state arts agencies. NASAA also provides tools and skills to help SAAs make a case for state funds.

**Americans for the Arts** mobilizes advocacy at all three levels of government and also organizes the State Arts Action Network (SAAN), the affinity group for state citizen advocacy groups.

**National arts service organizations** advocate for NEA funding and issues of importance to their disciplines.

To send Congress a unified advocacy message, national arts organizations have formed a coalition called the **Cultural Advocacy Group (CAG)**.

Partnering with policy organizations trusted by federal and state lawmakers increases NASAA’s credibility and influence on behalf of SAAs.

You Can Help!

- Download free advocacy tools at www.nasaa-arts.org/advocacy
- Stay current by following @NASAA.Arts
- Sign up for Legislative Alerts and calls to action

April 2018