NASAA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of STATE ARTS AGENCIES

Knowledge ▲ Representation ▲ Community

Information Services Summary
First Half of Fiscal Year 2024 (10/1/2023 – 3/31/2024)

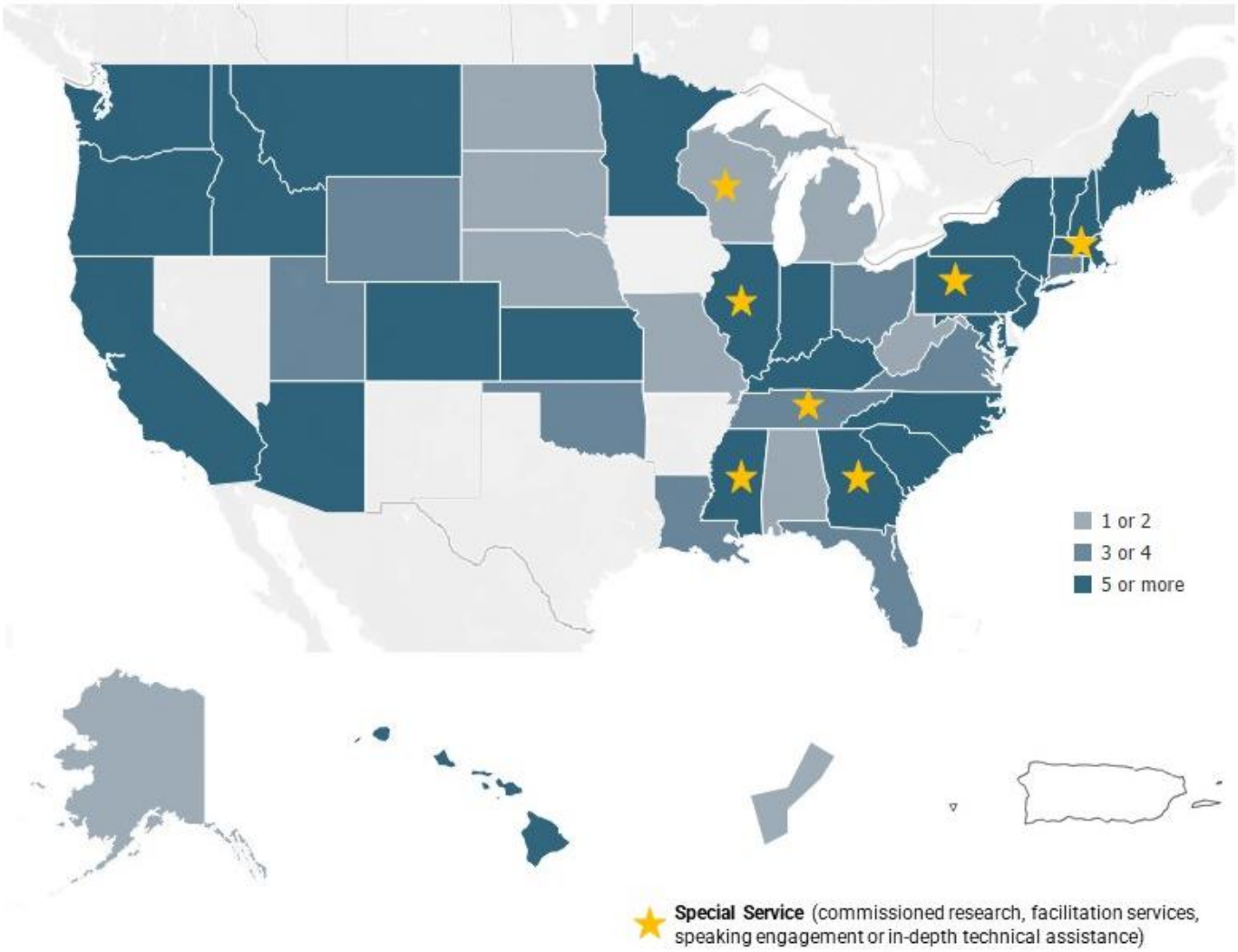
Providing responses to member questions—often within 24 hours—is an important component of NASAA's daily work. For the first half of fiscal year 2024, NASAA staff fulfilled 251 information requests from state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs), regional arts organizations (RAOs), partners and the public, answering questions about arts funding and impact as well as research available to support planning, evaluation, program design and policy. For more on the types of questions NASAA receives and can answer, see the Examples of Recent Information Requests.

The word cloud below illustrates the breadth of questions NASAA answered in the first half of FY2024, highlighting the words used most frequently in inquiries. See the Information Requests by Category chart for a deeper analysis of the types of questions NASAA answered. This report also maps information requests received by state and charts them by organization type and by SAA and RAO staff position.

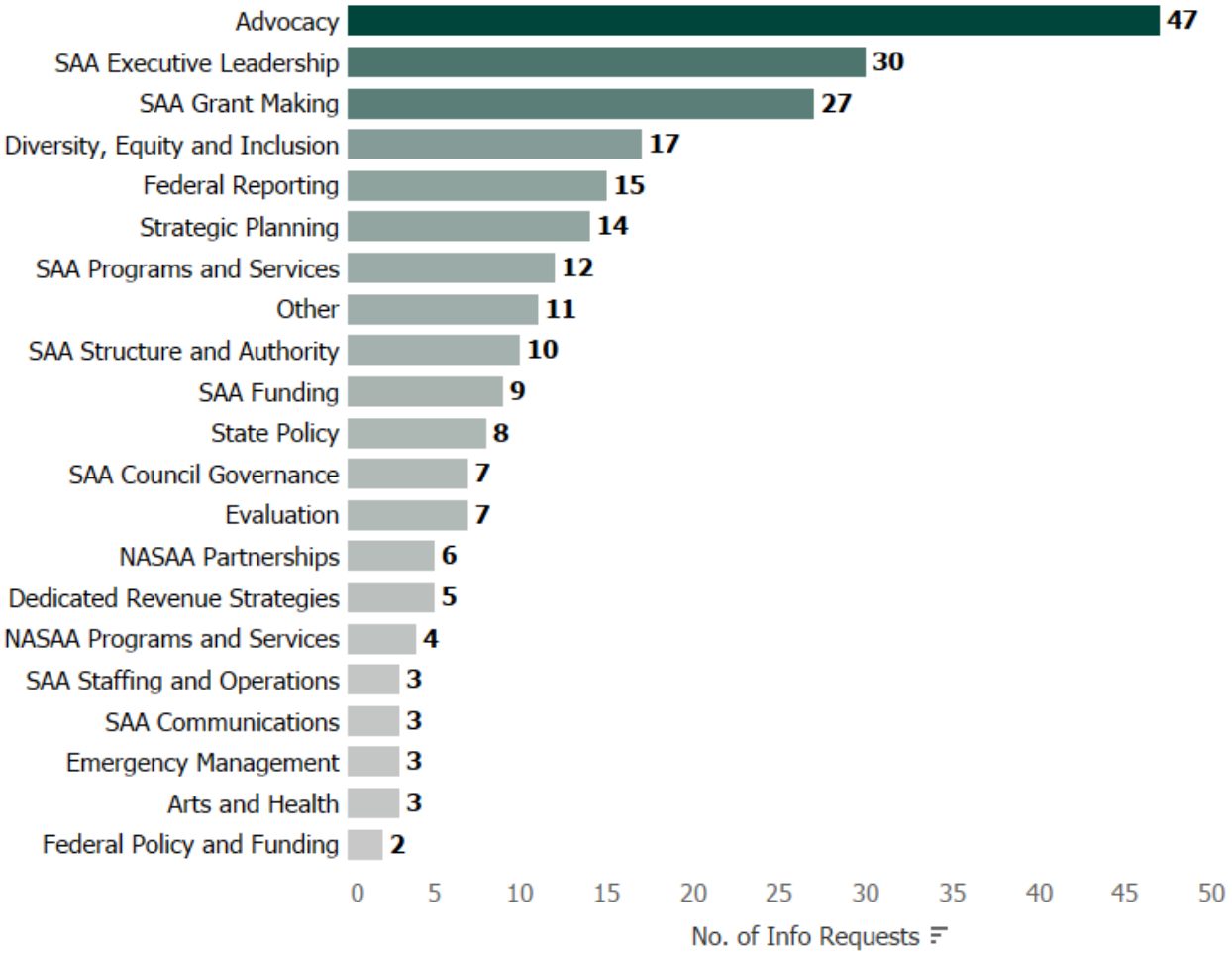
In addition, NASAA provides special services: speaking at statewide conferences, facilitating council meeting discussions and conducting custom research. For more information on these services, or to request information for your agency, contact Ryan Stubbs.

Word cloud based on questions from NASAA members, logged by NASAA staff between 10/1/2023 and 3/31/2024

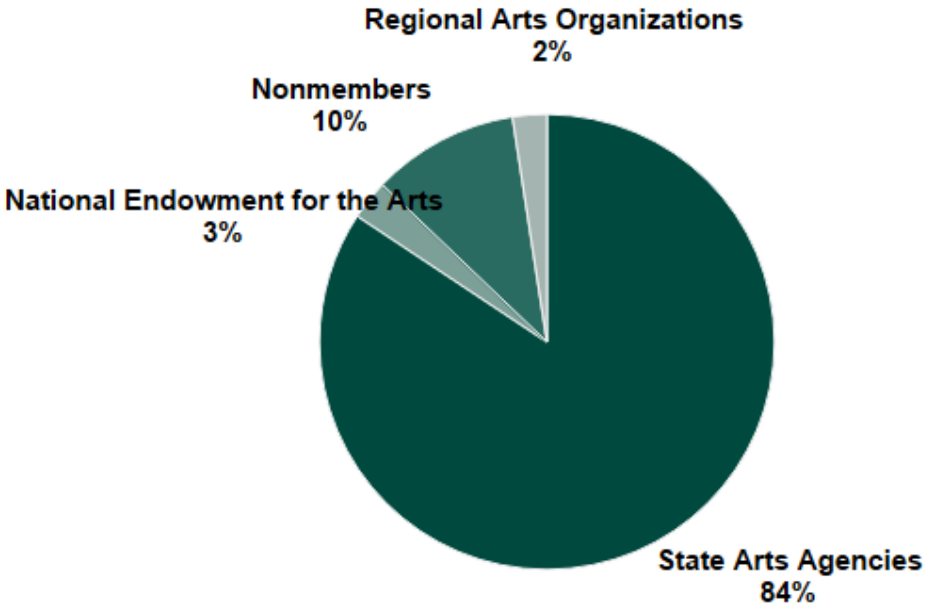
Information Requests by State, 10/1/2023 – 3/31/2024



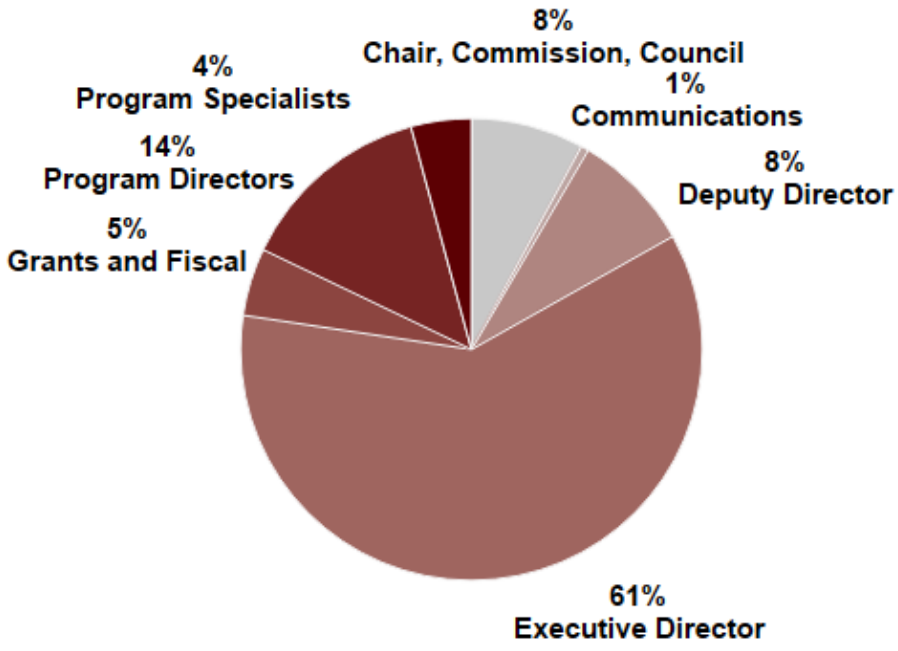
Information Requests by Category, 10/1/2023 – 3/31/2024



Information Requests by Organization Type, 10/1/2023 – 3/31/2024



Information Requests by SAA and RAO Staff Position, 10/1/2023 – 3/31/2024



Examples of Recent Information Requests

Advocacy

- We're launching a **new advocacy effort** following the election of a new governor. Can we pick your brain?
- We are trying to incubate a **new statewide advocacy group.** Can we discuss potential strategies?
- Does NASAA do **advocacy training,** or can you recommend someone who does?
- Is there any info I can share with my legislature about the **importance of funding** the arts council in a state budget crisis (significant reduction proposed)?
- Since NASAA provides so much invaluable data (through maps and otherwise), we would love to discuss **data and mapping.**
- Our state arts agency has been slated for **restructuring** in this coming legislative session. We need help demonstrating our agency's **return on investment** to a governor who wants to curtail the role of government. Can you help?
- Can you **map our grants by congressional district?**
- Can you provide some **advocacy talking points** and sample social media posts?
- What's your feedback on our **legislative strategy** for a significant budget increase?
- I'm preparing to testify before my legislative budget committee. Can NASAA **review a draft of my legislative testimony?**
- Can you help us **workshop an appropriate public statement** regarding current events?

Funding

- What **funding and grant-making comparison resources** do you have?
- How many other SAAs have a **companion foundation or friends group** dedicated to raising additional revenue?
- Could you send examples of **dedicated arts license plate** programs? How much money do these programs raise?
- What are the state rankings for **per capita arts funding** this year? What is the national average for per capita arts funding?
- Are there SAAs with a **tax based dedicated revenue** stream?
- What are the **pros and cons of identifying alternative revenue sources** when facing legislative budget cuts?
- Can NASAA answer some questions about **legislative line items and general budget appropriations?**
- Do you have **historical data** on SAA legislative appropriations in my state?

Governance, Operations and Policy

- How many SAA executive directors are **appointed by the governor** and how many are hired by the arts council?
- I'm looking for some examples of how **SAA councils support diversity, equity and inclusion** initiatives of their agencies.
- Please share NASAA's **diversity, equity and inclusion** policy statement.
- Could you review this **agenda design of an upcoming council meeting?**

- What is the typical role of SAA councils in **authorizing grant awards?**
- Would you explain the relationship between an SAA council's **advisory and governance roles?**
- Our council is hiring a new executive director. Could you send us **SAA salary data by budget size and region?**
- Can you tell me more about NASAA's resources for SAA staff who identify as **people of color?**
- Does NASAA have examples of **job descriptions** for a director of government relations?
- Could you share **organizational structures** of similarly sized SAAs?
- Which SAAs are connected to their **state cultural tourism office?**
- Can NASAA help with **onboarding our new executive director?**
- If our governor convenes a **state agency restructuring** task force, what kind of policy information could NASAA supply?
- We are updating our **council member handbook.** Do you have any models or best practices from other SAAs that you can share?
- Is NASAA able to help **guide us through capacity building and expanding our regional representation?**

Grant Making and Nongrant Programming

- Our council is considering our **funding formula** and would benefit greatly from reviewing other SAA formulas. Could you assist us?
- I'm compiling information about **fellowship programs.** Can NASAA offer some SAA resources?
- Does NASAA have best-practice suggestions about **grant panelist selection** criteria/policies?
- Does NASAA have examples of SAA grant programs that help arts groups **recover from disasters?**
- Please share your list of SAAs' **decentralized grant programs.**
- We're looking for a new **grant management system.** What do other SAAs use?
- How many SAAs offer a **stipend to their grant panelists?**
- Which SAAs have grant programs supporting **tribal entities?**
- We are examining issues of **equity and alignment within our major grant categories.** Can NASAA help us learn how other states approach these issues?
- Do you have statistics on **rural grant making?**
- Does NASAA have state-specific **race and economic equity** information?
- We are looking for examples of **arts in health care** programs. Any suggestions?
- Can you **recommend experts** to speak on breaking down structural racism in grant making?

National Endowment for the Arts

- What are the **eligibility criteria for National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Partnership Agreement** funding? If we change structure, could we lose our federal support?
- Can you clarify **NEA matching requirements?** My state legislature wants to know how our federal funding would be impacted if it reduces its investment in the arts.
- When is this year's **NEA Partnership Agreement panel review?**
- I have some questions regarding our **NEA grantee audit.**
- Can you help us respond to an **information request from the NEA?**

Planning, Evaluation and Research

- Can you help us analyze updates to our **project support grants?**
- Could you share **examples of other SAAs' strategic plans?**
- Can you provide **examples of SAA operational/action plans?**
- We may be facing a **legislative audit.** Have other states gone through this? What kind of data can NASAA provide?
- What is the optimal size, composition and role of a **strategic planning committee?**
- Do you have any recommendations about **strategic planning consultants?**
- We're embarking on a new strategic planning process. What **planning facilitation services** could NASAA provide?
- We need help designing a **strategic planning survey.**
- Can you provide more **details on the data behind the Creative Economy State Profiles?**
- Are there **examples of other states reshaping their education policy** to include the arts?
- Can you provide information on the **demographic composition** of the creative economy?
- Would you share feedback on **our arts in health survey and implementation time line?**

FDR (Final Descriptive Report) Requirements

- I've been tasked with preparing FDRs. Can you offer **tools and tips for preparing FDRs?**
- Do you have examples of guidance on reporting **populations benefited?**
- How do **"Project Activity Locations"** apply to Poetry Out Loud and our apprenticeship program?
- Please send me the current **Quick and Easy Guide to Field Definitions and Data Coding.**
- How do I account for **nongrant programs** in my FDR?
- Should I report **activity locations** separately?
- How do we report awards that involve **fiscal agents?**
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected **FDR requirements or deadlines?**