



NEWS RELEASE

February 7, 2018

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State Arts Appropriations Decrease in FY2018

Revised May 8, 2018

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies decreased on the aggregate by 2.3% in fiscal year 2018, according to State Arts Agency Revenues [data](#) and accompanying [report](#), published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).

After a positive trajectory of recovery coming out of the Great Recession, state arts agency appropriations have remained relatively level from FY2015 to the present. State legislative appropriations in FY2018 total \$358.1 million, equating to an investment of \$1.08 per capita. Although this is a \$0.03 decrease from FY2017, it is the fourth year in a row that state arts agency legislative appropriations have been above \$1.00 per capita.

"State arts agencies meet every challenge with resiliency and innovation to best serve local communities through the arts," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breau. "In the face of natural disasters and budget shortfalls, state arts agencies continue to strengthen practices that build rural economies, heal our veterans, improve health outcomes and boost students' academic achievement. State contributions, together with federal and local funding, leverage \$9 in private and earned funding for every public dollar spent, showing that public and private dollars are [better together](#)."

Despite the aggregate decline, there were notable variations among states. Twenty-two state arts agencies reported increases in 2018, but most of that growth was concentrated in just 10 states. Fifteen state arts agencies reported flat funding and 19 reported decreases, with a median decrease of 5.2%. When line item appropriations (funds that pass through state arts agency budgets) are excluded, appropriations to state arts agencies remained flat.

State general fund revenues are projected to grow by 4.0% in FY2018, and states have shown considerable restraint in FY2018 due to previous years of slow revenue growth, a continued rise in long-term spending obligations and substantial uncertainty at the federal level. Enacted FY2018 state budgets contain the slowest growth rate since FY2010. Nineteen states have addressed budget gaps in FY2018, and five states are still coping with shortfalls.

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](#), [the impact of government support for the arts](#) and [how these funds are used in grant-making activities](#) is available on the [NASAA website](#).

- Appropriations to state arts agencies comprise **0.038% (less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2018.
- States currently invest **\$358.1 million**—about \$1.08 per capita—in state arts agencies.
- State arts agencies use legislative appropriations to make more than **21,000 grant awards** to organizations, schools and artists.
- **Public policy goals** addressed by state arts agencies include [serving military families](#), [fostering equity and inclusion](#), [enriching rural communities](#), and [contributing to educational excellence](#).

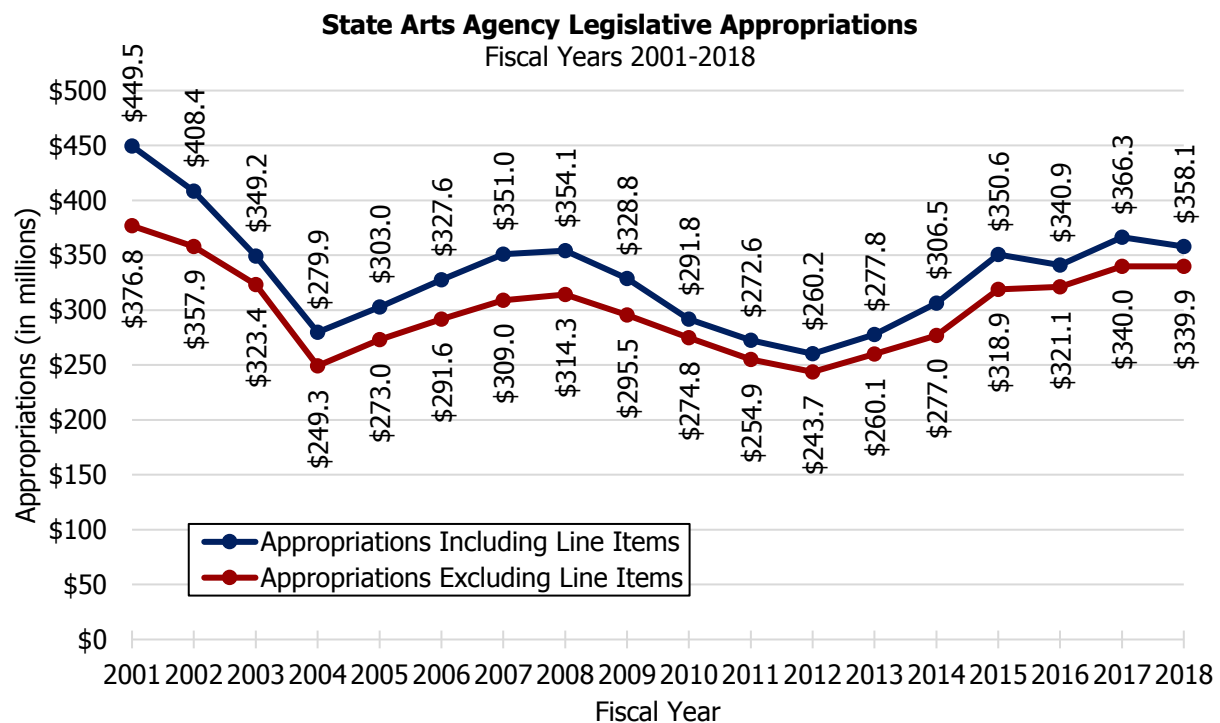
SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes

Fiscal Years 2017-2018

Increases	
Number of SAAs	22
Number of SAAs up 10%+	10
Median percent increase	9.0%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	15
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	19
Number of SAAs down 10%+	7
Median percent decrease	-5.2%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	-2.3%
Median percent change	0.0%

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

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2018



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 2018

Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations
Fiscal Years 2017-2018

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items		Percent Change FY17 to FY18
	FY2017	FY2018	
Alabama	\$ 4,734,496	\$ 4,809,496	1.6%
Alaska	\$ 695,700	\$ 692,800	-0.4%
American Samoa	\$ 75,000	\$ 85,000	13.3%
¹ Arizona	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	0.0%
² Arkansas	\$ 1,664,940	\$ 1,491,744	-10.4%
³ California	\$ 17,642,000	\$ 18,369,000	4.1%
Colorado	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	0.0%
⁴ Connecticut ^	\$ 4,237,513	\$ 4,237,513	0.0%
Delaware	\$ 3,407,323	\$ 3,350,766	-1.7%
District of Columbia	\$ 22,044,411	\$ 28,978,038	31.5%
⁵ Florida ♦	\$ 43,655,475	\$ 30,025,083	-31.2%
Georgia	\$ 1,016,499	\$ 1,111,501	9.3%
Guam	\$ 451,064	\$ 451,064	0.0%
Hawaii	\$ 5,731,735	\$ 5,962,111	4.0%
Idaho	\$ 782,900	\$ 810,500	3.5%
Illinois	\$ -	\$ 9,901,000	
Indiana ^	\$ 3,323,048	\$ 4,000,000	20.4%
⁶ Iowa ^	\$ 1,192,188	\$ 1,217,188	2.1%
Kansas	\$ 188,604	\$ 188,604	0.0%
Kentucky	\$ 2,625,700	\$ 2,628,100	0.1%
Louisiana	\$ 1,792,117	\$ 2,129,696	18.8%
Maine	\$ 894,266	\$ 923,437	3.3%
Maryland	\$ 19,439,735	\$ 20,085,885	3.3%
Massachusetts	\$ 14,299,000	\$ 13,950,699	-2.4%
Michigan	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	11.1%
Minnesota	\$ 38,842,000	\$ 33,904,000	-12.7%
Mississippi	\$ 1,681,548	\$ 1,594,718	-5.2%
Missouri	\$ 6,761,700	\$ 6,450,500	-4.6%
Montana ^	\$ 536,991	\$ 516,633	-3.8%
Nebraska ^	\$ 1,561,484	\$ 1,538,470	-1.5%
⁷ Nevada	\$ 1,953,506	\$ 1,807,040	-7.5%
New Hampshire	\$ 310,174	\$ 405,780	30.8%
New Jersey	\$ 16,405,000	\$ 16,405,000	0.0%
New Mexico	\$ 1,315,300	\$ 1,315,300	0.0%
New York	\$ 45,174,000	\$ 45,334,000	0.4%
North Carolina	\$ 8,844,327	\$ 8,257,787	-6.6%
North Dakota ^	\$ 798,213	\$ 782,438	-2.0%
Northern Marianas	\$ 550,212	\$ 586,463	6.6%
Ohio	\$ 14,722,050	\$ 14,653,879	-0.5%
⁸ Oklahoma	\$ 2,937,793	\$ 2,795,181	-4.9%
Oregon ♦	\$ 2,101,050	\$ 2,701,020	28.6%
Pennsylvania	\$ 9,590,000	\$ 9,590,000	0.0%
⁹ Puerto Rico ♦	\$ 16,499,901	\$ 9,424,000	-42.9%
Rhode Island	\$ 2,920,068	\$ 2,290,856	-21.5%
¹⁰ South Carolina ♦	\$ 3,508,041	\$ 3,708,041	5.7%
South Dakota	\$ 872,070	\$ 947,860	8.7%
Tennessee	\$ 7,059,700	\$ 7,140,900	1.2%
Texas	\$ 8,359,646	\$ 5,237,039	-37.4%
¹¹ Utah	\$ 2,191,300	\$ 3,170,700	44.7%
Vermont	\$ 675,307	\$ 675,307	0.0%
Virgin Islands	\$ 309,805	\$ 299,360	-3.4%
Virginia ^	\$ 3,579,764	\$ 3,492,929	-2.4%
Washington	\$ 1,166,000	\$ 1,497,000	28.4%
West Virginia	\$ 864,575	\$ 698,190	-19.2%
Wisconsin♦	\$ 811,600	\$ 916,800	13.0%
Wyoming	\$ 1,038,975	\$ 1,038,975	0.0%
Total	\$ 366,335,814	\$ 358,075,391	-2.3%

Table Notes

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

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

¹ **Arizona:** Since FY2012, the legislature has not appropriated funding to the state arts agency from the general fund. The SAA's FY2017 and FY2018 appropriations were drawn from interest on the state's rainy-day fund and were nonrecurring. Other state funds are generated from state business license revenues.

² **Arkansas:** The Department of Arkansas Heritage allocates appropriations to the Arkansas Arts Council, as stipulated in Act 234 of 2017. Reductions in FY2018 appropriation are mainly a result of the Department of Arkansas Heritage's centralization of salaries, separate from the appropriations of its divisions, including the Arkansas Arts Council.

³ **California:** One-time discretionary funds designated by the state legislature account for \$6.8 million of the FY2017 appropriation and were made recurring in FY2018. Total appropriations do not include support for the Arts in Corrections program.

⁴ **Connecticut:** The total appropriation does not include funding going through the agency's budget for line items to non-arts organizations.

⁵ **Florida:** Funding for the division's largest grant program (general program support) suffered a 40% reduction during FY2017.

⁶ **Iowa:** The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs sustained a midyear de-appropriation for FY2017 of \$210,958, as well as complete elimination of the \$6.1 million Iowa Cultural Trust, as a result of efforts by the Iowa legislature and governor to address a projected state budget shortfall. A new \$25,000 Cultural Trust Grants line item was added to address the loss of the Iowa Cultural Trust.

⁷ **Nevada:** Fiscal year 2017 appropriation includes nonrecurring funds from the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs of \$267,254.

⁸ **Oklahoma:** At the time this survey data was collected, the Oklahoma state budget had a shortfall of around \$200 million in FY2018 and the FY2018 budget was unresolved following a veto by the governor. The Oklahoma Arts Council expects to receive further cuts to this reported appropriation.

⁹ **Puerto Rico:** Data was collected from the Puerto Rico Financial Oversight and Management Board documentation, which reflects figures enacted prior to hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Details are limited due to ongoing hurricane recovery.

¹⁰ **South Carolina:** Total appropriation figure reflects the \$350,000 override of the governor's veto on January 16, 2018.

¹¹ **Utah:** The agency's appropriation does not include state support for the Fine Arts Outreach POPS program and the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program, which are administered by agencies other than the SAA.

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2018