

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Level Appropriations to State Arts Agencies Continue in FY2019

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Aggregate legislative appropriations to state arts agencies increased by 2.1% in fiscal year 2019, according to [data](#) published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and an accompanying report, [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2019](#).

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. Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies in FY2019 total \$360.5 million, equating to an investment of \$1.09 per capita. This is a \$0.02 increase from FY2018 and the fifth year in a row that state arts agency legislative appropriations have been above \$1.00 per capita.

"State arts agencies use vital public funding to ensure all communities receive the well-documented benefits the arts offer," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. "Grants and services from state arts agencies expand opportunities for diverse populations to experience the arts and help communities flourish."

Although this year's aggregate increase is small, legislative appropriations to state arts agencies are showing positive growth compared to last fiscal year. Twenty-seven state arts agencies, compared to 22 in FY2018, reported increases in 2019; most of that growth is concentrated in 14 states. Twenty state arts agencies reported flat funding and 9 reported decreases (down from 19 in FY2018), with a median decrease of 14.7%. When line item appropriations (funds that pass through state arts agency budgets) are excluded, appropriations to state arts agencies increased by less than 1%.

State general fund revenues experienced a robust aggregate growth of 6.4% in FY2018, with healthy revenue collection continuing during the first half of FY2019. While overall state spending for fiscal year 2019 grew by 4.3%, total appropriations to state arts agencies increased by only 2%. The federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 caused a number of changes in state tax codes. States are uncertain about the full effects of these changes on state revenues. Revenue uncertainty was exacerbated by a protracted federal government shutdown early in calendar year 2019.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies is the nonpartisan, nonprofit 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](#) is available on the [NASAA website](#).

- Appropriations to state arts agencies comprise **0.037% (less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2019.
- States currently invest **\$360.5 million**—about \$1.09 per capita—in state arts agencies.
- State arts agencies use legislative appropriations to make more than **22,000 grant awards** to organizations, schools and artists.
- **Public policy goals** addressed by state arts agencies include advancing [economic](#), [race](#) and [rural](#) equity, [serving military families](#), and [contributing to educational excellence](#).

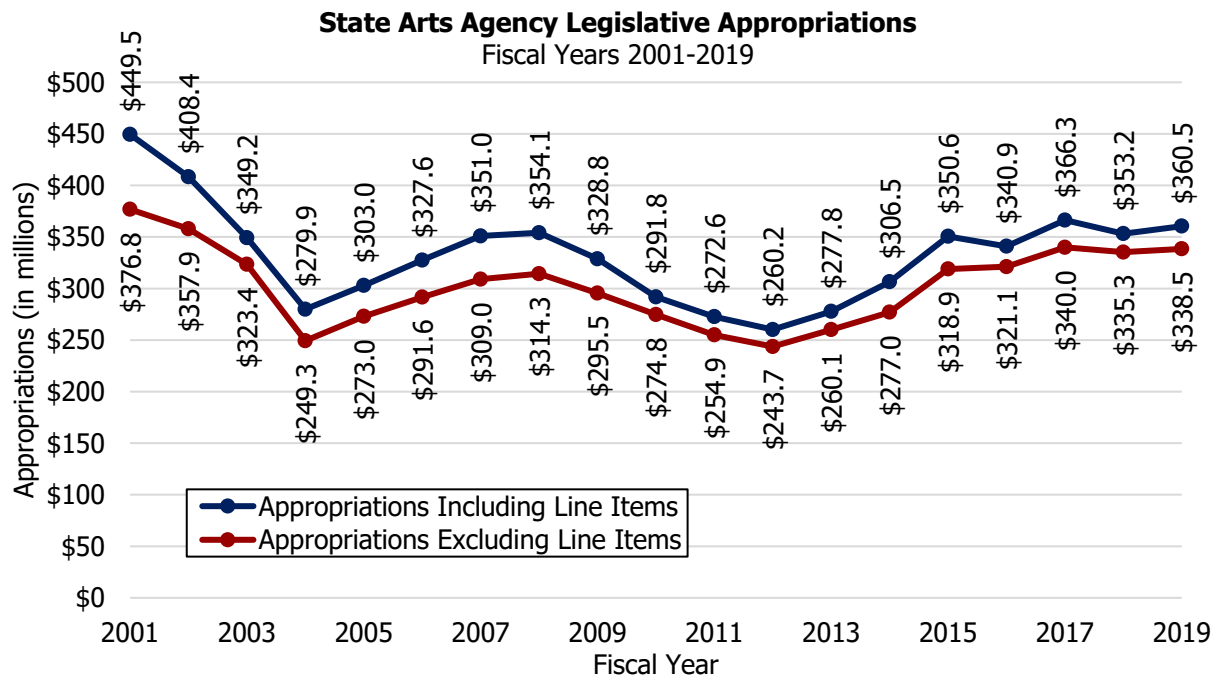
### SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes

Fiscal Years 2018-2019

Increases	
Number of SAAs	27
Number of SAAs up 10%+	14
Median percent increase	9.6%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	20
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	9
Number of SAAs down 10%	5
Median percent decrease	-14.7%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	2.1%
Median percent change	0.5%

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

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2019



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 2019

**Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations**  
Fiscal Years 2018-2019

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items		Percent Change FY18 to FY19
	FY2018	FY2019	
Alabama	\$ 4,809,496	\$ 5,459,496	13.5%
Alaska	\$ 692,800	\$ 692,800	0.0%
American Samoa	\$ 85,000	\$ 121,000	42.4%
<sup>1</sup> Arizona	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 2,000,000	33.3%
Arkansas	\$ 1,491,744	\$ 1,425,944	-4.4%
California	\$ 18,490,000	\$ 27,295,000	47.6%
Colorado	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	0.0%
Connecticut ^♦	\$ 4,410,665	\$ 5,218,700	18.3%
Delaware	\$ 3,207,000	\$ 3,206,300	0.0%
District of Columbia	\$ 28,978,038	\$ 31,367,000	8.2%
<sup>2</sup> Florida	\$ 25,653,336	\$ 7,404,260	-71.1%
<sup>3</sup> Georgia	\$ 1,111,501	\$ 1,211,310	9.0%
Guam	\$ 451,064	\$ 360,753	-20.0%
Hawaii	\$ 5,462,111	\$ 6,027,111	10.3%
Idaho	\$ 810,500	\$ 841,000	3.8%
Illinois	\$ 9,901,000	\$ 11,326,400	14.4%
Indiana	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	0.0%
Iowa ^	\$ 1,217,188	\$ 1,267,188	4.1%
Kansas	\$ 188,604	\$ 188,604	0.0%
Kentucky	\$ 2,628,100	\$ 1,708,700	-35.0%
Louisiana	\$ 2,129,696	\$ 2,131,469	0.1%
Maine	\$ 923,437	\$ 946,750	2.5%
Maryland	\$ 20,085,885	\$ 21,747,233	8.3%
Massachusetts	\$ 13,950,699	\$ 16,154,982	15.8%
Michigan	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	0.0%
Minnesota	\$ 33,904,000	\$ 39,275,000	15.8%
Mississippi	\$ 1,594,718	\$ 1,595,294	0.0%
Missouri	\$ 6,450,500	\$ 6,458,929	0.1%
Montana ^	\$ 456,400	\$ 516,344	13.1%
Nebraska ^	\$ 1,538,470	\$ 1,477,145	-4.0%
Nevada	\$ 1,807,040	\$ 1,825,861	1.0%
New Hampshire	\$ 405,780	\$ 401,585	-1.0%
New Jersey	\$ 16,405,000	\$ 16,405,000	0.0%
New Mexico	\$ 1,315,300	\$ 1,321,900	0.5%
New York	\$ 45,334,000	\$ 45,334,000	0.0%
North Carolina	\$ 8,257,787	\$ 9,102,787	10.2%
North Dakota ^	\$ 782,438	\$ 782,438	0.0%
<sup>4</sup> Northern Marianas	\$ 586,463	\$ 586,463	0.0%
Ohio	\$ 14,653,879	\$ 14,653,879	0.0%
Oklahoma	\$ 2,795,181	\$ 2,799,266	0.1%
Oregon	\$ 2,701,020	\$ 2,449,358	-9.3%
<sup>5</sup> Pennsylvania	\$ 10,429,000	\$ 10,429,000	0.0%
Puerto Rico	\$ 9,424,000	\$ 8,034,000	-14.7%
Rhode Island ♦	\$ 2,023,360	\$ 3,164,693	56.4%
South Carolina ♦	\$ 3,358,041	\$ 4,215,938	25.5%
South Dakota	\$ 903,510	\$ 957,490	6.0%
Tennessee	\$ 7,140,900	\$ 7,175,800	0.5%
Texas	\$ 5,037,039	\$ 5,043,064	0.1%
<sup>6</sup> Utah	\$ 3,170,700	\$ 3,326,500	4.9%
Vermont	\$ 675,307	\$ 717,735	6.3%
Virgin Islands	\$ 299,360	\$ 325,000	8.6%
Virginia ^	\$ 3,467,995	\$ 3,704,210	6.8%
Washington	\$ 1,479,000	\$ 1,633,000	10.4%
West Virginia	\$ 698,190	\$ 879,806	26.0%
<sup>7</sup> Wisconsin♦	\$ 916,800	\$ 763,000	-16.8%
Wyoming	\$ 1,038,975	\$ 1,038,975	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 353,228,017</b>	<b>\$ 360,495,460</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

**Table Notes**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> **Arizona:** Since FY2012, the legislature has not appropriated funding to the state arts agency from the general fund. The SAA's FY2018 and FY2019 appropriations were drawn from interest on the state's rainy-day fund and were nonrecurring.

<sup>2</sup> **Florida:** Funding for the division suffered an 85.1% reduction for FY2019 due to the state legislature's decision to not fund a large portion of designated grants for organizations.

<sup>3</sup> **Georgia:** The Georgia Council for the Arts appropriation includes one-time funding of \$150K in FY2018 and \$100K in FY2019.

<sup>4</sup> **Northern Marianas:** Due to the significant damage from Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, NASAA did not collect data from the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. Tables display level funding for the agency in FY2019.

<sup>5</sup> **Pennsylvania:** Total legislative appropriation includes an administrative allocation for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

<sup>6</sup> **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.

<sup>7</sup> **Wisconsin:** FY2019 legislative appropriation figure does not include an additional \$35,900 to match Partnership Agreement funds from the NEA. The additional appropriation was pending legislative action at the time of data collection.