

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Preview Fiscal Year 2020

Updated 09/05/2019

This report provides a forecast of state government funding for the arts in the fiscal year ahead, as states enact budgets for FY2020 and national funding trends emerge. Please note that this is *preliminary* information, as the data was collected before 46 states began a new fiscal year on July 1, 2019. Thirty states went through the budgeting process this year, and 17 states will authorize a new two-year budget. Three of these will enter into the second year of their budget biennium, though many will have supplemental or revised budgets for the second fiscal year. As of August 2019, two states with a fiscal year starting July 1 have yet to finalize enacted budgets for FY2020. In addition, many states will revisit enacted budgets in the coming months to adjust for shifting revenue and expense conditions. For the latest information on state arts agency funding fluctuations, contact [Patricia Mullaney-Loss](#).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Total appropriations to state arts agencies are projected to increase by 24%** between fiscal years 2019 and 2020, totaling more than \$459.3 million.
- **Thirty-nine SAAs reported projected increases** in total legislative appropriations and, among those, the median increase was 8.3%.
- **Seven SAAs reported decreases**, with a median decrease of 14.9%.
- **Total per capita appropriations to SAAs rose to \$1.39** in FY2020, an increase of 28 cents from FY2019.
- Overall state revenue projections for FY2019 are showing growth following a year of robust aggregate growth of 7% between FY2017 and FY2018. **State general-fund spending is expected to increase by 3.7% in FY2020, with 47 states proposing spending increases.**

The Climate for Arts Funding

In the aggregate, state fiscal conditions are remaining stable, and budgets showed consistent growth over the past two years. State general-fund spending growth, 5.8% in FY2019, was the fastest year-over-year growth since FY2007. When final receipts are counted, FY2019 revenue is projected to modestly increase, with 28 states reporting revenue collections coming in above forecasts. Governors' FY2020 budgets have reflected this positive trend of fiscal stability and higher instance of budget surplus, with 47 governors proposing general spending increases, a growth rate of 3.7% over the prior year. Still, taking a longer view, 25 states are seeing lower spending amounts than they did a decade ago in FY2008. Echoing larger state budget conditions, the majority of state arts agency appropriation estimates are projecting increases, but not all SAAs have seen positive growth.

This report has been updated to reflect a significant development in funding for Alaska. After Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy initially issued a [veto](#) of all FY2020 funding for the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA), [funding was restored](#) through a supplemental budget bill, HB2001, enacted on August 19, 2019. As he signed this supplemental budget bill, the governor re-vetoed numerous line items, but funding for ASCA was among the HB2001 appropriations left intact.

State Arts Agency Appropriations Projections

Entering FY2020, legislative appropriations to state arts agencies (SAAs) are expected increase substantially, by 24.0%, bringing total appropriations to SAAs to \$ 459.3 million. In FY2020:

- 39 states and jurisdictions expect their arts appropriation to increase;
- 7 expect their appropriation to decrease;
- 10 expect their appropriation to remain unchanged.

Projected increases and decreases for FY2020 are not concentrated in any single region or budget grouping. The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs experienced a 71% decrease in FY2019 and had funding restored in FY2020, accounting for a 260% increase. The Texas Commission on the Arts received an appropriation increase of 201%, an additional \$10 million, in FY2020. The California Arts Council expects an increase of 104.7% in FY2020 due to new line items, while the agency's baseline appropriation decreased by 5.2%. In fact, the majority of the aggregate increase to SAAs is a result of increased line items for certain states. For more state-by-state details, see the tables and notes on [page 4](#) and [page 5](#) of this report.

Projected Changes in SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Fiscal Years 2019-2020

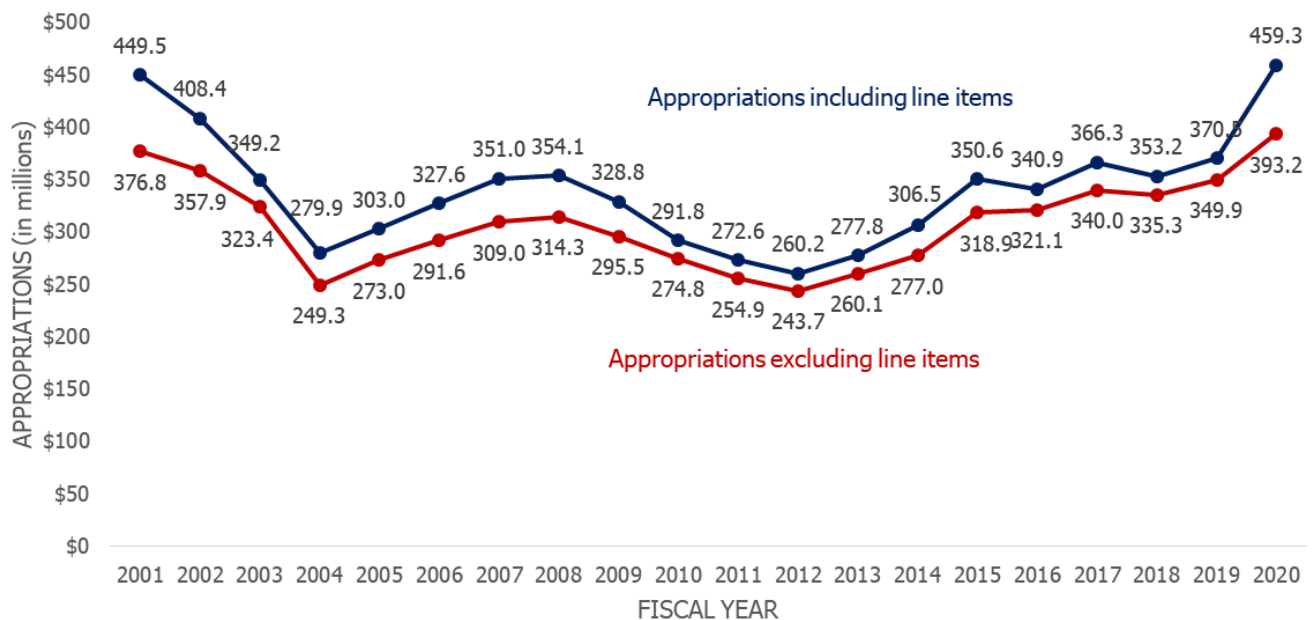
Increases	
Number of SAAs	39
Number of SAAs up 10% or more	16
Median percent increase	8.3%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	10
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	7
Number of SAAs down 10% or more	3
Median percent decrease	-14.9%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	24.0%
Median percent change	3.6%

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

Historic Trends

Total appropriations to state arts agencies in FY2020 are projected to exceed FY2001 funding in nominal terms. This represents a new high-water mark for aggregate state arts funding. The majority of these increases are due to line item increases, which are historically volatile. (Line items are appropriations not controlled by SAAs but passed through SAA budgets to legislatively designated entities.) Still, appropriations excluding line items also are expected to surpass FY2001 levels. However, recovery after the Great Recession has not been equally shared among all SAAs: 29 agencies expect to have larger appropriations in FY2020 than in FY2008, with the other 27 SAAs still below prerecession funding levels.

STATE ARTS AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEARS 2001-2020



Per Capita Funding

Projected appropriations to state arts agencies of \$459.3 million for the year ahead represent an aggregate investment of \$1.39 per capita. While this is a substantial increase from \$1.12 in FY2019, it remains 13.4% lower than the nominal all-time per capita high of \$1.60 reached in FY2001. Although aggregate appropriations have exceeded FY2001 levels, population has continued to grow and the same amount of funding will not support the same level of programs and services for all residents.

About These Data

Based on survey data reported to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in May and June 2019, this preview contains information on the legislative appropriation that each state arts agency expects to receive for FY2020, which begins for most states on July 1, 2019. This report does not include information on other sources of funding (federal money, state transfer funds or other revenue sources) that SAAs may receive. NASAA will collect comprehensive FY2020 SAA budget statistics in the fall and will report those findings in winter. Background information on total SAA revenues for FY2019 is available in the [Funding](#) section of the NASAA website, including a suite of data visualizations detailing appropriations and revenue over time, regional comparisons and per capita rank estimations.

All references to historic trend data in this forecast are presented in nominal terms—i.e., they are not adjusted for inflation. Detailed discussion of inflation's effects (and accompanying constant-dollar adjustments) are included in NASAA's in-depth report published each winter. Trend charts including inflation adjustments are available through our [appropriations and revenue explorers](#).

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State Arts Agency Appropriations, Fiscal Years 2019-2020
Total Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items

State or Special Jurisdiction	FY2019 Enacted	FY2020 Projected	Percent Change FY19 to FY20
Alabama*	\$ 5,459,496	\$ 5,828,528	6.8%
¹ Alaska	\$ 692,800	\$ 704,400	1.7%
American Samoa	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	0.0%
² Arizona*	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,200,000	10.0%
Arkansas	\$ 1,425,944	\$ 1,425,944	0.0%
³ California*	\$ 27,419,000	\$ 56,119,000	104.7%
Colorado	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	0.0%
Connecticut*	\$ 5,218,700	\$ 5,218,700	0.0%
Delaware	\$ 3,206,300	\$ 3,313,000	3.3%
District of Columbia	\$ 30,389,000	\$ 33,632,233	10.7%
⁴ Florida*	\$ 7,404,260	\$ 26,647,536	259.9%
⁵ Georgia	\$ 1,211,310	\$ 1,517,217	25.3%
Guam	\$ 360,753	\$ 394,126	9.3%
Hawaii*	\$ 6,995,067	\$ 6,995,067	0.0%
Idaho	\$ 841,000	\$ 884,700	5.2%
Illinois*	\$ 12,896,800	\$ 22,896,800	77.5%
Indiana	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,920,491	-2.0%
Iowa*	\$ 1,267,188	\$ 1,467,188	15.8%
Kansas	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	0.0%
Kentucky	\$ 1,708,700	\$ 1,728,900	1.2%
Louisiana	\$ 2,131,469	\$ 2,165,285	1.6%
Maine	\$ 929,061	\$ 1,006,222	8.3%
Maryland*	\$ 21,747,233	\$ 23,702,000	9.0%
Massachusetts*	\$ 16,154,982	\$ 18,180,000	12.5%
Michigan†	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	0.0%
Minnesota*	\$ 39,276,000	\$ 40,741,000	3.7%
Mississippi	\$ 1,595,294	\$ 1,169,421	-26.7%
Missouri*	\$ 6,458,929	\$ 6,570,824	1.7%
Montana*	\$ 516,313	\$ 551,314	6.8%
Nebraska	\$ 1,477,145	\$ 1,508,852	2.1%
Nevada	\$ 2,003,598	\$ 1,327,366	-33.8%
New Hampshire†	\$ 498,728	\$ 805,229	61.5%
New Jersey	\$ 16,405,000	\$ 16,405,000	0.0%
New Mexico	\$ 1,321,900	\$ 1,332,300	0.8%
New York*	\$ 45,334,000	\$ 43,951,000	-3.1%
North Carolina*†	\$ 9,102,787	\$ 8,802,787	-3.3%
North Dakota*	\$ 782,438	\$ 803,102	2.6%
Northern Marianas	\$ 586,463	\$ 586,394	0.0%
Ohio	\$ 14,653,879	\$ 16,470,723	12.4%
Oklahoma	\$ 2,799,266	\$ 2,912,531	4.0%
Oregon*	\$ 2,668,717	\$ 1,959,497	-26.6%
⁶ Pennsylvania	\$ 10,464,000	\$ 10,481,000	0.2%
Puerto Rico*	\$ 13,750,000	\$ 15,144,000	10.1%
Rhode Island*	\$ 1,989,693	\$ 2,084,748	4.8%
⁷ South Carolina*	\$ 4,215,938	\$ 11,341,448	169.0%
South Dakota	\$ 927,103	\$ 996,797	7.5%
Tennessee*	\$ 7,175,800	\$ 7,995,500	11.4%
Texas*	\$ 5,043,064	\$ 15,164,538	200.7%
⁸ Utah	\$ 6,266,200	\$ 7,705,400	23.0%
Vermont	\$ 717,735	\$ 722,800	0.7%
Virgin Islands	\$ 325,000	\$ 375,000	15.4%
Virginia	\$ 3,730,751	\$ 3,855,751	3.4%
Washington	\$ 1,633,000	\$ 2,169,000	32.8%
West Virginia	\$ 879,806	\$ 870,758	-1.0%
Wisconsin	\$ 763,000	\$ 790,000	3.5%
Wyoming	\$ 1,038,975	\$ 1,108,438	6.7%
Total	\$370,494,585	\$459,284,855	24.0%

Notes

* The total FY2020 projected appropriation includes line item funds designated by the legislature to pass through the state arts agency to other entities.

† At the time of publication, the state does not have an enacted FY2020 budget.

¹ **Alaska:** FY2020 funding was restored to the state arts agency after a supplemental budget bill, HB2001, was enacted on August 19, 2019. Original funding was approved by the legislature, but eliminated through a gubernatorial line-item veto.

² **Arizona:** Since FY2012, appropriations were drawn from interest on the state's rainy-day fund and were nonrecurring. FY2020 appropriations are drawn from the state's general fund and are nonrecurring.

³ **California:** Line items include \$27,583,000 of proposed pass-through funds for designated agencies.

⁴ **Florida:** Funding for the division suffered a 71.1% reduction for FY2019 due to the state legislature's decision to not fund a large portion of designated grants for organizations. Funding was restored to previous levels for FY2020.

⁵ **Georgia:** The Georgia Council for the Arts appropriation included one-time funding of \$150,000 in FY2018 and \$100,000 in FY2019.

⁶ **Pennsylvania:** Total legislative appropriation includes an administrative allocation for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

⁷ **South Carolina:** For FY2020, the South Carolina Arts Commission received a line item of \$7,000,000 for the Greenville Cultural and Arts Center.

⁸ **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.

Per Capita State Arts Agency Appropriations, Fiscal Year 2020
 Projected Total Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items	
	Per Capita Amount	Per Capita Rank
Alabama*	\$1.19	17
Alaska	\$0.96	24
Arizona*	\$0.31	46
Arkansas	\$0.47	37
California*	\$1.42	14
Colorado	\$0.35	45
Connecticut*	\$1.46	13
Delaware	\$3.43	4
Florida*	\$1.25	16
Georgia	\$0.14	49
Hawaii*	\$4.92	2
Idaho	\$0.50	35
Illinois*	\$1.80	12
Indiana	\$0.59	32
Iowa*	\$0.46	39
Kansas	\$0.17	48
Kentucky	\$0.39	44
Louisiana	\$0.46	40
Maine	\$0.75	28
Maryland*	\$3.92	3
Massachusetts*	\$2.63	5
Michigan†	\$1.00	23
Minnesota*	\$7.26	1
Mississippi	\$0.39	43
Missouri*	\$1.07	21
Montana*	\$0.52	34
Nebraska	\$0.78	27
Nevada	\$0.44	42
New Hampshire†	\$0.59	31
New Jersey	\$1.84	11
New Mexico	\$0.64	30
New York*	\$2.25	7
North Carolina*†	\$0.85	25
North Dakota*	\$1.06	22
Ohio	\$1.41	15
Oklahoma	\$0.74	29
Oregon*†	\$0.47	38
Pennsylvania	\$0.82	26
Rhode Island*	\$1.97	9
South Carolina*	\$2.23	8
South Dakota	\$1.13	20
Tennessee*	\$1.18	18
Texas*	\$0.53	33
Utah	\$2.44	6
Vermont	\$1.15	19
Virginia	\$0.45	41
Washington	\$0.29	47
West Virginia	\$0.48	36
Wisconsin	\$0.14	50
Wyoming	\$1.92	10
American Samoa	\$2.66	8
District of Columbia	\$47.88	1
Guam	\$2.35	11
Northern Marianas	\$11.28	2
Puerto Rico*	\$4.74	5
Virgin Islands	\$0.99	29
Total	\$1.39	

Notes

* The total FY2020 projected appropriation includes line item funds designated by the legislature to pass through the state arts agency to other entities.

† At the time of publication, the state does not have an enacted FY2020 budget.

Per capita amounts represent the total dollar figure for each agency's appropriation divided by the total population. The total per capita dollar figure in the bottom row is based on the aggregate population for 56 states and jurisdictions. States are ranked out of 50; jurisdictions are ranked out of 56.

Per capita spending calculations for the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are based on the July 1, 2018, population estimates in the [Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018](#) table from the U.S. Census Bureau. Population figures for American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands are from the [International Data Base](#) of the U.S. Census Bureau.