

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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Appropriations to State Arts Agencies Increase in FY2020

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Aggregate legislative appropriations to state arts agencies increased by 37.3% in fiscal year 2020, according to [data](#) published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and an accompanying report, [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2020](#).

This fiscal year, legislative appropriations to state arts agencies (SAAs) totaled \$494.2 million. This comes after state arts agency appropriations remained relatively level from FY2015 to FY2019. It is the first year aggregate appropriations surpassed the FY2001 funding level (without adjusting for inflation). Together, appropriations to SAAs equal an investment of \$1.49 per capita. This is a \$0.41 increase from FY2019 and the sixth year in a row that state arts agency legislative appropriations have been above \$1.00 per capita.

"States are realizing a clear return on investment when they allocate resources to state arts agencies," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. "Investment in the arts at the state level translates into positive economic, educational and civic outcomes that improve individuals and communities nationwide. These demonstrated benefits of the arts make state arts agencies an important partner in creating a thriving United States."

Although this year's aggregate increase is considerable, much (22.8%) of the increase is due to line items, which are historically volatile. Nevertheless, gains have been made in the majority of states: forty-two SAAs reported increases in 2020, and most of that growth is concentrated in 19 states. Eight state arts agencies reported flat funding and six reported decreases. Of the six states experiencing a cut, only one decreased by more than 10% between FY2019 and FY2020. When line item appropriations (funds that pass through state arts agency budgets) are excluded, appropriations to state arts agencies increased by a total of 14.5%.

Entering a third year of stable growth, states are experiencing favorable budgetary conditions and most are increasing spending in FY2020. Most states (46 in total) ended FY2019 with budget surpluses exceeding original projections due to increased revenue growth, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers. State general fund spending is expected to grow by 4.8% in FY2020. This increase is not consolidated within just a few states—45 states are forecasting increases in FY2020 spending. Given an uncertain economic future, states continue to prudently exercise caution by investing in reserves at a higher rate, with rainy-day fund balances estimated to reach an all-time high of 8% of general fund spending in FY2020. There is also considerable uncertainty around international trade tension, federal budget conditions and fears of another recession.

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 **0.049% (about one-half of one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2020.
- States currently invest **\$494.2 million**—about \$1.49 per capita—in state arts agencies.
- State arts agencies use legislative appropriations to make more than **23,000 grant awards** to organizations, schools and artists.
- **Public policy goals** addressed by state arts agencies include advancing [economic](#), [race](#) and [rural](#) equity, [investing in creative aging](#), and [contributing to community development](#).

SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes

Fiscal Years 2019-2020

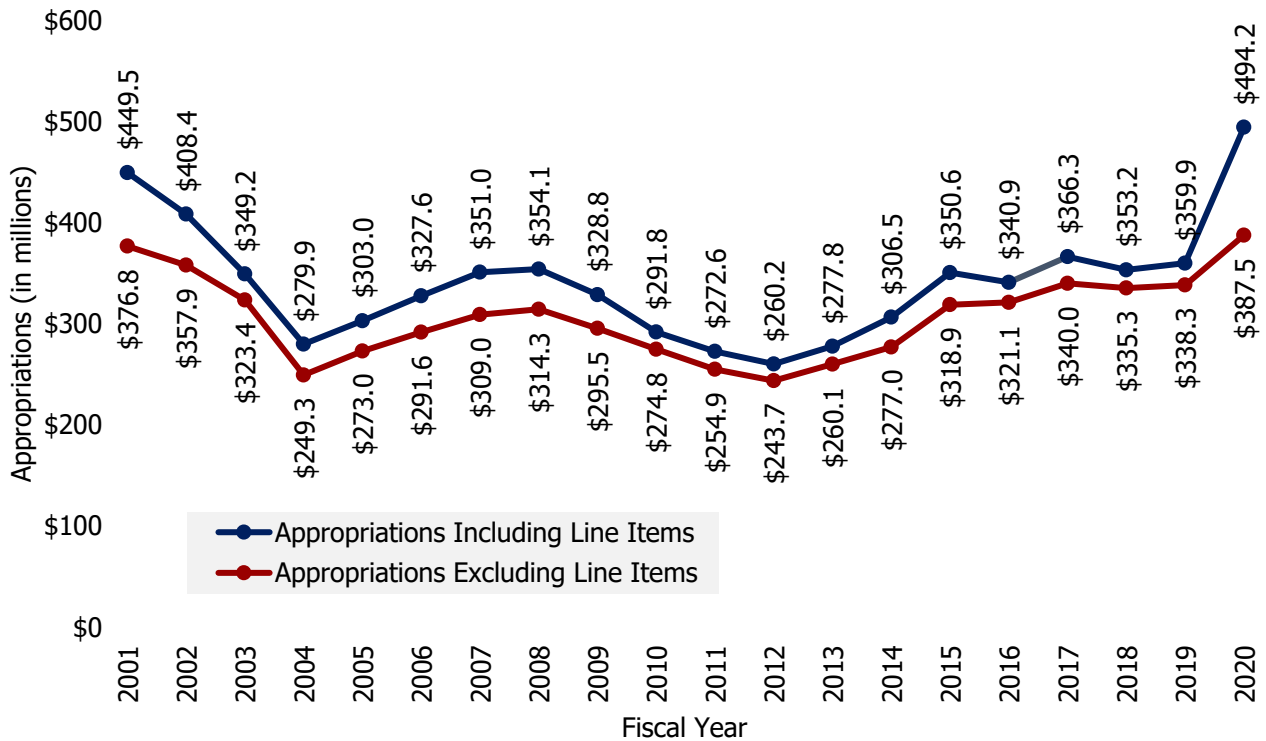
Increases	
Number of SAAs	42
Number of SAAs up 10%+	19
Median percent increase	9.5%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	8
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	6
Number of SAAs down 10%+	1
Median percent decrease	-8.9%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	37.3%
Median percent change	5.4%

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

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2020

State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations

Fiscal Years 2001-2020



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 2020

Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations
Fiscal Years 2019-2020

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items		Percent Change FY19 to FY20
	FY2019	FY2020	
Alabama	\$ 5,459,496	\$ 5,828,528	6.8%
¹ Alaska	\$ 703,700	\$ 704,400	0.1%
American Samoa	\$ 85,000	\$ 116,000	36.5%
² Arizona	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,200,000	10.0%
Arkansas	\$ 1,425,944	\$ 1,425,944	0.0%
California ♦	\$ 24,883,000	\$ 53,583,000	115.3%
Colorado	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,023,000	1.2%
Connecticut ^	\$ 5,218,700	\$ 5,499,552	5.4%
Delaware	\$ 3,206,300	\$ 3,813,000	18.9%
District of Columbia	\$ 31,199,200	\$ 34,155,000	9.5%
³ Florida ♦	\$ 7,404,260	\$ 24,637,852	232.8%
⁴ Georgia	\$ 1,211,310	\$ 1,517,217	25.3%
Guam	\$ 360,753	\$ 438,847	21.6%
Hawaii	\$ 5,952,111	\$ 6,945,067	16.7%
Idaho	\$ 841,000	\$ 884,700	5.2%
⁵ Illinois ♦	\$ 12,914,200	\$ 63,396,800	390.9%
Indiana	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,920,491	-2.0%
Iowa ^	\$ 1,367,188	\$ 1,467,188	7.3%
Kansas	\$ 188,604	\$ 500,000	165.1%
Kentucky	\$ 1,708,700	\$ 1,728,900	1.2%
Louisiana	\$ 2,131,469	\$ 2,069,865	-2.9%
Maine	\$ 946,750	\$ 1,006,627	6.3%
Maryland	\$ 21,747,233	\$ 23,408,764	7.6%
Massachusetts	\$ 16,154,982	\$ 18,180,000	12.5%
Michigan	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 9,000,000	-10.0%
Minnesota	\$ 39,275,000	\$ 40,741,000	3.7%
Mississippi	\$ 1,595,294	\$ 1,719,421	7.8%
Missouri	\$ 6,458,929	\$ 6,570,874	1.7%
Montana ^	\$ 516,313	\$ 525,305	1.7%
Nebraska ^	\$ 1,483,586	\$ 1,508,852	1.7%
Nevada	\$ 1,825,861	\$ 1,840,327	0.8%
New Hampshire	\$ 498,727	\$ 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	\$ 45,274,000	-0.1%
⁶ North Carolina	\$ 9,102,787	\$ 8,277,787	-9.1%
North Dakota ^	\$ 782,438	\$ 809,342	3.4%
Northern Marianas	\$ 586,394	\$ 534,907	-8.8%
Ohio	\$ 14,653,879	\$ 17,177,781	17.2%
Oklahoma	\$ 2,799,266	\$ 2,912,531	4.0%
⁷ Oregon	\$ 2,449,358	\$ 4,083,460	66.7%
⁸ Pennsylvania	\$ 10,464,000	\$ 10,474,000	0.1%
Puerto Rico	\$ 8,034,000	\$ 11,033,000	37.3%
⁹ Rhode Island	\$ 3,164,693	\$ 2,669,748	-15.6%
¹⁰ South Carolina ♦	\$ 4,215,938	\$ 11,820,385	180.4%
South Dakota	\$ 930,627	\$ 1,006,468	8.1%
¹¹ Tennessee	\$ 7,175,800	\$ 7,957,700	10.9%
¹² Texas ♦	\$ 5,043,064	\$ 15,164,538	200.7%
¹³ Utah	\$ 3,589,800	\$ 5,333,000	48.6%
Vermont	\$ 717,735	\$ 723,589	0.8%
Virgin Islands	\$ 325,000	\$ 375,000	15.4%
Virginia ^	\$ 3,704,210	\$ 3,837,138	3.6%
Washington	\$ 1,633,000	\$ 2,169,000	32.8%
West Virginia	\$ 879,806	\$ 879,806	0.0%
¹⁴ Wisconsin ♦	\$ 763,000	\$ 790,000	3.5%
Wyoming	\$ 1,038,975	\$ 1,038,975	0.0%
Total	\$ 359,878,280	\$ 494,241,205	37.3%

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 **Alaska:** FY2020 funding was restored to the SAA after a supplemental budget bill, HB2001, was enacted on August 19, 2019. Original funding was approved by the legislature but was eliminated through a gubernatorial line-item veto. Figures have been captured from budget documents.
- 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 **Florida:** The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs suffered a 71.1% funding 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.
- ⁴ **Georgia:** The Georgia Council for the Arts appropriation included one-time funding of \$150,000 in FY2018 and \$100,000 in FY2019.
- ⁵ **Illinois:** The Illinois Arts Council Agency was allocated \$50 million in one-time appropriations for capital projects. The Agency is awaiting action from the governor's office before distributing funds over multiple years.
- ⁶ **North Carolina:** The state had not enacted an FY2020 budget at the time of data collection. In such a case, state law requires that agencies operate using the same funding level as the prior year.
- ⁷ **Oregon:** The Oregon Arts Commission's line items are lottery fund allocations for capital construction projects (Cultural Resources Economic Fund). In FY2020, four construction projects for cultural nonprofits received support from this fund.
- ⁸ **Pennsylvania:** Total legislative appropriation for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts includes an administrative allocation.
- ⁹ **Rhode Island:** Increases in other state funds of \$6.8 million in FY2019 are due largely to a voter-approved bond issue for cultural facilities.
- ¹⁰ **South Carolina:** For FY2020, the South Carolina Arts Commission received a line item of \$7,000,000 for the Community Foundation of Greenville.
- ¹¹ **Tennessee:** The Arts Commission received a three-year, \$1 million grant from the Tennessee Department of Health's Nursing Home Civil Monetary Penalty Fund. The general assembly authorized expenditures of the total amount in both FY2019 and FY2020.
- ¹² **Texas:** The FY2020 legislative appropriation includes \$5 million for Cultural District Project grants and \$5 million for a single grant to the Flower Mound Performing Arts Theatre.
- ¹³ **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.
- ¹⁴ **Wisconsin:** The FY2020 legislative appropriation figure does not include an additional \$23,700 to match Partnership Agreement funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. The additional appropriation was pending legislative action at the time of data collection.