

# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Sue Struve

202-347-7068

[sue.struve@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:sue.struve@nasaa-arts.org)

## State Arts Budgets Reach All-Time Highs in FY2022, though Uncertainty Persists

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Aggregate legislative appropriations to state arts agencies increased by 103.8% in fiscal year 2022, according to [data](#) published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and an accompanying report, [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2022](#).

While state budgets felt the weight of the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in FY2021, the reopening of economies combined with enhanced federal pandemic aid buoyed states in FY2022. Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies (SAAs) rose more than 100%, from \$402.8 million in 2021 to \$820.8 million in 2022.

Together, appropriations to SAAs equal an investment of \$2.45 per capita, also a more than 100% increase from the previous year and the first time state arts agency legislative appropriations have risen above \$2.00 per capita.

"State governments are investing in the arts as a proven strategy for economic recovery and community healing," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breau. "State arts agencies have helped state governments respond to the pandemic by serving communities in need, sustaining cultural infrastructure and catalyzing economic recovery."

This year's aggregate increase is considerable and in direct contrast to the year before; however, the rebound is likely temporary due to the phasing out of federal pandemic aid. Also, a high proportion of the increase is due to line item appropriations (funds that pass through state arts agency budgets), which are historically volatile—close to 56% of the increase is due to large, onetime public art investments in five states. Nevertheless, most states experienced an increase: 41 SAAs reported increases in 2022, while 9 reported flat funding and 6 reported decreases. When line items are excluded, appropriations to state arts agencies increased by around 62%.

The reopening of economies and decreasing unemployment have increased state revenues. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act and particularly the American Rescue Plan Act also have bolstered state budgets. In FY2022, general fund revenue increased by 12% from FY2021. The national percent of state general funds dedicated to the arts doubled in FY2022, from 0.039% to 0.075%—a rate that is two times higher than the past three years. Caution should be exercised in assuming such strong increases will continue. As economies stay open, state revenues may continue to increase or remain stable. However, federal pandemic aid, which may not continue into 2023, played a significant role in bolstering state budgets for FY2022. Economic recovery will likely continue to be uneven across the states, with continued fiscal uncertainty dependent on the progress of recovery.

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

- Appropriations to state arts agencies comprise **0.075% (less than one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2022.
- States currently invest **\$820.8 million**—about \$2.45 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 boosting [economic resiliency](#), advancing [economic](#), [race](#) and [rural](#) equity, and investing in [creative aging](#).

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### SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes

Fiscal Years 2021-2022

#### Increases

Number of SAAs	41
Number of SAAs up 10%+	27
Median percent increase	14.4%

#### Flat Funding\*

Number of SAAs	9
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#### Decreases

Number of SAAs	6
Number of SAAs down 10%+	0
Median percent decrease	-2.5%

#### All States

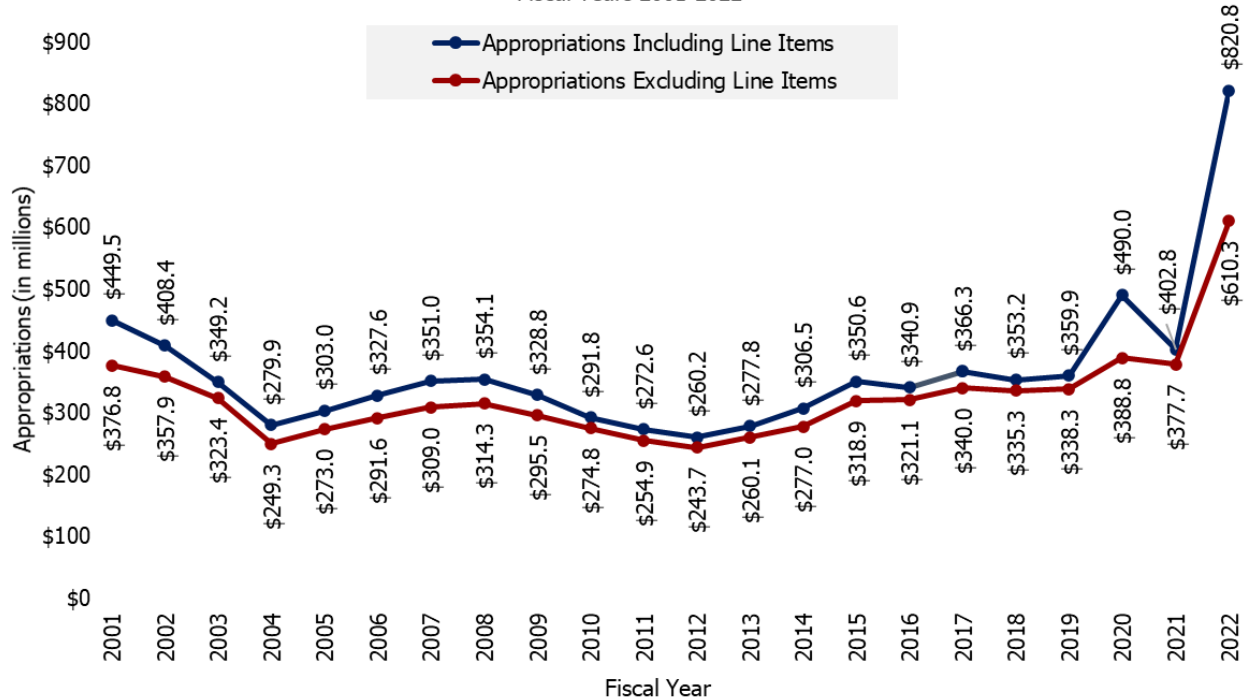
Aggregate percent change	103.8%
Median percent change	9.6%

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

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2022

### State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations

Fiscal Years 2001-2022



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 2022

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**Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations**  
Fiscal Years 2021-2022

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items		Percent Change FY21 to FY22
	FY2021	FY2022	
Alabama	\$ 6,421,322	\$ 7,048,047	9.8%
Alaska	\$ 734,100	\$ 743,600	1.3%
American Samoa	\$ 114,000	\$ 153,500	34.6%
<sup>1</sup> Arizona	\$ -	\$ -	n/a
Arkansas	\$ 1,451,853	\$ 1,356,220	-6.6%
<sup>2</sup> California ♦	\$ 32,781,000	\$ 169,525,000	417.1%
<sup>3</sup> Colorado	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 2,023,000	55.6%
<sup>4</sup> Connecticut ♦^	\$ 5,424,552	\$ 34,288,942	532.1%
Delaware	\$ 3,866,700	\$ 3,880,015	0.3%
District of Columbia	\$ 33,250,000	\$ 37,522,544	12.8%
Florida	\$ 17,212,000	\$ 30,740,635	78.6%
Georgia	\$ 1,502,217	\$ 1,502,217	0.0%
Guam	\$ 233,859	\$ 493,859	111.2%
Hawaii	\$ 6,530,067	\$ 7,757,189	18.8%
Idaho	\$ 874,800	\$ 883,400	1.0%
<sup>5</sup> Illinois ♦	\$ 13,271,800	\$ 63,879,800	381.3%
Indiana	\$ 3,920,491	\$ 3,632,417	-7.3%
Iowa ^	\$ 1,467,188	\$ 1,467,188	0.0%
Kansas	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	0.0%
Kentucky	\$ 1,537,900	\$ 1,739,600	13.1%
Louisiana	\$ 2,180,683	\$ 2,170,902	-0.4%
Maine	\$ 966,180	\$ 1,019,604	5.5%
Maryland	\$ 23,410,253	\$ 26,333,540	12.5%
Massachusetts	\$ 18,180,000	\$ 21,375,000	17.6%
Michigan	\$ 8,350,000	\$ 9,850,000	18.0%
Minnesota	\$ 40,691,000	\$ 41,913,000	3.0%
Mississippi	\$ 1,507,834	\$ 1,659,164	10.0%
Missouri	\$ 6,630,106	\$ 7,078,930	6.8%
Montana ^	\$ 528,036	\$ 558,191	5.7%
<sup>6</sup> Nebraska ^	\$ 1,530,353	\$ 2,542,346	66.1%
Nevada	\$ 1,189,269	\$ 1,953,818	64.3%
New Hampshire	\$ 816,615	\$ 822,161	0.7%
<sup>7</sup> New Jersey ♦	\$ 20,263,000	\$ 61,455,000	203.3%
New Mexico	\$ 1,482,600	\$ 1,418,000	-4.4%
<sup>8</sup> New York ♦	\$ 45,174,000	\$ 106,622,000	136.0%
<sup>9</sup> North Carolina	\$ 8,277,787	\$ 23,277,787	181.2%
North Dakota ^	\$ 813,896	\$ 831,383	2.1%
Northern Marianas	\$ 125,221	\$ 233,467	86.4%
Ohio	\$ 16,815,913	\$ 20,000,000	18.9%
Oklahoma	\$ 2,796,030	\$ 3,004,205	7.4%
Oregon	\$ 3,084,853	\$ 4,078,054	32.2%
Pennsylvania	\$ 10,457,000	\$ 10,542,000	0.8%
Puerto Rico	\$ 12,997,000	\$ 14,873,000	14.4%
Rhode Island	\$ 2,487,857	\$ 2,240,567	-9.9%
<sup>10</sup> South Carolina ♦	\$ 4,366,187	\$ 45,281,187	937.1%
South Dakota	\$ 897,874	\$ 1,056,693	17.7%
<sup>11</sup> Tennessee	\$ 8,431,000	\$ 9,540,100	13.2%
Texas	\$ 10,214,538	\$ 10,164,538	-0.5%
<sup>12</sup> Utah	\$ 5,377,100	\$ 9,356,400	74.0%
Vermont	\$ 718,589	\$ 785,980	9.4%
Virgin Islands	\$ 375,000	\$ 382,000	1.9%
Virginia ^	\$ 3,981,248	\$ 3,992,248	0.3%
Washington	\$ 2,574,000	\$ 2,634,000	2.3%
West Virginia	\$ 933,815	\$ 927,315	-0.7%
<sup>13</sup> Wisconsin	\$ 813,097	\$ 807,100	-0.7%
Wyoming	\$ 929,217	\$ 929,217	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 402,761,000</b>	<b>\$ 820,846,070</b>	<b>103.8%</b>

**Table Notes**

♦ Percent change is significantly affected by a change in line items. See [tables 3 and 4](#) for more information.

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

<sup>1</sup> **Arizona:** The Arizona Commission on the Arts did not receive an appropriation in FY2022, but did receive \$1.2 million in other state funds. See [Table 7](#).

<sup>2</sup> **California:** The California Arts Council received one-time funding that includes \$100 million in general fund investments for creative workforce (\$60 million) and youth development (\$40 million) programs to be spent over three years.

<sup>3</sup> **Colorado:** Figures do not include \$15.5 million in state funds for the Colorado Artist Relief Program and \$65 million in funding for creative construction projects across the state through the Community Revitalization Grant Program.

<sup>4</sup> **Connecticut:** The state allocated \$32.8 million in line items, including \$20 million to Connecticut Humanities to be used to stabilize state cultural organizations.

<sup>5</sup> **Illinois:** The Illinois Arts Council Agency was allocated more than \$50 million in one-time appropriations for capital projects in FY2022.

<sup>6</sup> **Nebraska:** The Nebraska legislature approved an increase of \$1 million to the Nebraska Arts Council appropriation to fund the agency's new Creative Districts Certification and Grants program.

<sup>7</sup> **New Jersey:** For FY2022, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts received a line item of \$24 million for the City of Jersey City.

<sup>8</sup> **New York:** The FY2022 legislative appropriation includes \$40 million in recovery funds and \$20 million in capital projects funds.

<sup>9</sup> **North Carolina:** The state budget includes an additional \$15 million in ARP Act funding for the North Carolina Arts Council in FY2022 and another \$1 million in year two of the budget.

<sup>10</sup> **South Carolina:** In addition to the increased line items (\$37 million) this fiscal year, the South Carolina Arts Commission's general appropriation also received additional \$1.5 million and \$2 million in nonrecurring funding in FY2022.

<sup>11</sup> **Tennessee:** The Tennessee Arts Commission received a three-year, \$1 million grant from the Department of Health Nursing Home Civil Monetary Penalty Fund. The general assembly authorized expenditures of the total amount in FY2021 and \$750,000 in FY2022.

<sup>12</sup> **Utah:** The Utah Division of Arts & Museums received multiyear grants (\$42,010 in FY2021, \$300,000 in FY2022) from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

<sup>13</sup> **Wisconsin:** Appropriation figures are contingent upon the Wisconsin legislature's Joint Committee on Finance to supply matching funds for the agency's NEA Partnership Agreement.

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2022