

## State Arts Budgets Remain Strong in FY2024 as Pandemic Relief Funding Ratchets Down

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Aggregate legislative appropriations to state arts agencies decreased by 24% in fiscal year 2024, according to [data](#) published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and an accompanying report, [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2024](#). Thirty-nine states realized budgetary increases in FY2024. The aggregate decrease is attributable to large nonrecurring investments in California and New York appropriated in the prior fiscal year.

Legislative appropriations to state arts agencies (SAAs) fell from \$971 million in FY2023 to \$741 million in FY2024.

Together, appropriations to SAAs equal an investment of \$2.19 per capita, a \$0.69 (24%) decrease from the previous year.

"Investments in state arts agencies are a proven strategy to achieve high-priority policy goals such as economic recovery, community well-being and infrastructure development," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. "Through prudent state investments, state arts agencies play an essential role as implementors of state programs that directly benefit communities."

While aggregate appropriations decreased for FY2024, most states received an increase in funding. Thirty-nine states reported increases in total legislative appropriations, with a median increase of 12.7%, and five states reported no changes. Two states represented almost 60% of the aggregate decrease. These states had received large one-time appropriations in FY2023.

- Appropriations to state arts agencies comprise **0.052% (less than one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2024.
- States currently invest **\$740.9 million**—about \$2.19 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 economies](#), providing the benefits of the arts to [rural](#) and [underserved](#) communities, and [improving well-being](#) for all Americans.

This is positive news considering the phasing out of COVID-19 pandemic aid, particularly from the American Rescue Plan Act. According to the [National Association of State Budget Officers](#), 46 states exceeded general revenue forecasts in FY2023 and only 3 fell below projections. Combined, these trends indicate continued strength in state economies and contributions to state arts programs. However, with the combined effects of ongoing inflationary pressures and discontinued pandemic aid, state budgets remain vulnerable.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. In collaboration with the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts councils, NASAA advances the arts as a powerful path to economic prosperity, rural resilience, good health, education success and strong communities in which everyone thrives. NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding for the arts as well as the policies and programs of state arts agencies. 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](#).

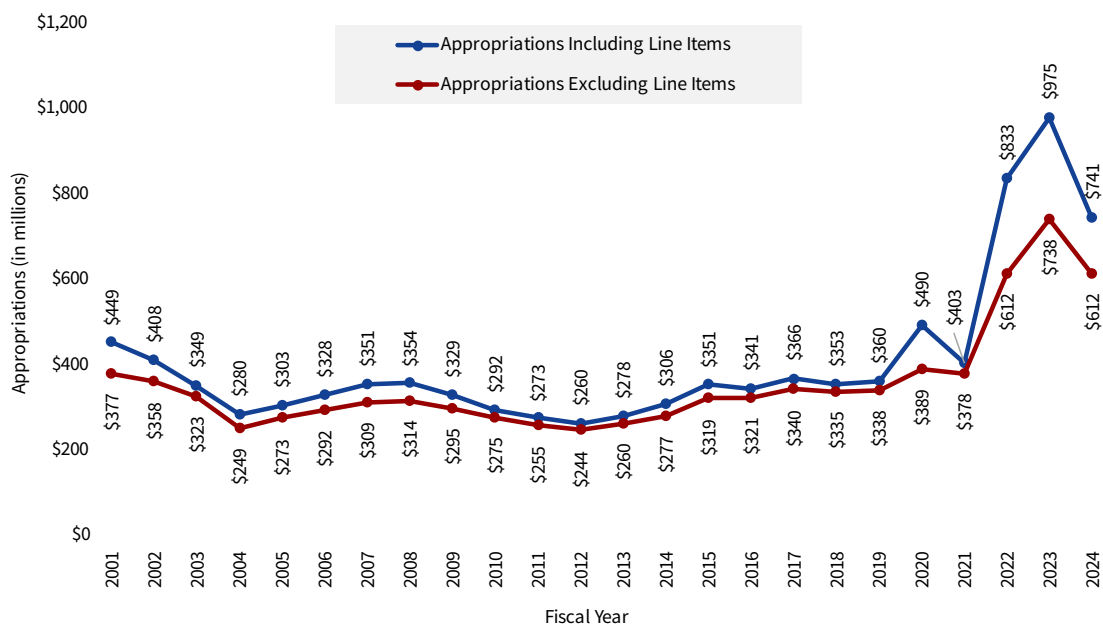
**Figure 1: SAA Total Legislative Appropriations Changes**  
Fiscal Years 2023–2024

Increases	
Number of SAAs	39
Number of SAAs up 10%+	23
Median percent increase	12.7%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	5
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	12
Number of SAAs down 10%+	8
Median percent decrease	-29.4%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	-24.0%
Median percent change	6.6%

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

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2024

**Figure 2: State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations**  
Fiscal Years 2001-2024



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 2024

**Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations**  
Fiscal Years 2023–2024

	State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line items		Percent Change FY22 to FY23
		FY2022	FY2023	
	Alabama	\$7,630,969	\$7,806,197	2.3%
	Alaska	\$744,800	\$947,100	27.2%
	American Samoa	\$153,500	\$167,000	8.8%
1	Arizona	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	0.0%
	Arkansas	\$1,372,507	\$1,425,904	3.9%
2	California ♦	\$135,962,000	\$39,344,000	-71.1%
	Colorado	\$2,023,000	\$2,023,000	0.0%
	Connecticut ♦^	\$37,635,238	\$8,215,358	-78.2%
	Delaware	\$3,869,700	\$4,879,100	26.1%
	District of Columbia	\$47,694,526	\$50,077,000	5.0%
3	Florida ♦	\$83,581,650	\$55,652,101	-33.4%
4	Georgia	\$1,555,890	\$1,566,412	0.7%
	Guam	\$586,400	\$586,154	0.0%
	Hawai'i	\$7,277,189	\$10,330,535	42.0%
	Idaho	\$905,700	\$982,800	8.5%
	Illinois	\$63,664,900	\$65,480,400	2.9%
	Indiana	\$3,632,417	\$5,197,761	43.1%
	Iowa ^	\$1,467,188	\$1,550,000	5.6%
5	Kansas	\$509,403	\$1,009,403	98.2%
	Kentucky	\$1,797,100	\$1,839,700	2.4%
	Louisiana	\$2,139,981	\$2,112,377	-1.3%
	Maine	\$1,028,241	\$1,108,640	7.8%
	Maryland	\$27,777,358	\$34,547,780	24.4%
	Massachusetts	\$23,377,000	\$25,895,000	10.8%
	Michigan	\$11,850,000	\$8,850,000	-25.3%
	Minnesota	\$43,551,000	\$55,195,000	26.7%
6	Mississippi	\$5,913,208	\$10,495,803	77.5%
7	Missouri	\$18,616,669	\$29,386,342	57.8%
	Montana ^	\$1,004,150	\$1,116,392	11.2%
8	Nebraska ♦^	\$10,102,052	\$2,600,377	-74.3%
	Nevada	\$2,101,634	\$2,261,397	7.6%
	New Hampshire	\$838,584	\$1,406,566	67.7%
	New Jersey	\$40,780,000	\$45,730,000	12.1%
	New Mexico	\$1,593,000	\$1,718,100	7.9%
9	New York	\$241,447,000	\$110,105,000	-54.4%
10	North Carolina	\$9,146,169	\$12,396,169	35.5%
11	North Dakota ^	\$855,157	\$1,298,510	51.8%
	Northern Marianas	\$223,934	\$280,254	25.2%
	Ohio	\$20,085,698	\$25,502,000	27.0%
	Oklahoma	\$3,243,030	\$3,730,030	15.0%
	Oregon ♦	\$11,207,498	\$6,179,194	-44.9%
	Pennsylvania	\$10,583,000	\$10,660,000	0.7%
	Puerto Rico	\$18,176,000	\$18,043,000	-0.7%
	Rhode Island	\$2,200,000	\$2,292,758	4.2%
	South Carolina ♦	\$13,929,096	\$13,123,843	-5.8%
	South Dakota	\$940,220	\$1,107,666	17.8%
12	Tennessee	\$11,544,686	\$11,697,436	1.3%
	Texas	\$10,164,538	\$14,309,718	40.8%
	Utah	\$9,451,100	\$7,946,300	-15.9%
	Vermont	\$859,445	\$968,940	12.7%
	Virgin Islands	\$392,166	\$374,437	-4.5%
	Virginia ^	\$4,596,237	\$4,596,237	0.0%
	Washington	\$5,262,000	\$6,825,643	29.7%
	West Virginia	\$954,315	\$997,446	4.5%
	Wisconsin	\$954,500	\$1,078,000	12.9%
	Wyoming	\$898,000	\$898,000	0.0%
	Total	\$974,850,744	\$740,914,280	-24.0%

**Table Notes**

♦ Percent change can be significantly affected by a change in line items.

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

**1 Arizona:** The Arizona Commission on the Arts received a \$5 million one-time appropriation from the state legislature for the second consecutive fiscal year.

**2 California:** During FY2022, the California Arts Council was allocated a one-time, \$100 million general fund allocation for creative workforce and youth development. This funding was intended for expenditure over a three-year period.

**3 Florida:** The Florida Division of Arts and Culture's FY2023 appropriation included over \$23.2 million in line items, including \$15 million to the African-American Cultural and Historical grant program.

**4 Georgia:** All state departments received budget increases to finance pay raises for state employees.

**5 Kansas:** The Kansas Department of Commerce added \$500,000 to fund Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission to expand workforce development and entrepreneurship in the creative sector.

**6 Mississippi:** The state allocated over \$5 million from the Capital Expense Fund for the Mississippi Arts Commission and a \$1 million pass-through for the Mississippi Museum of Art.

**7 Missouri:** The state budget includes a pass-through of \$19 million for various organizations, including Missouri Humanities.

**8 Nebraska:** Nebraska Arts Council's appropriation in FY2023 included a \$7.5 million one-time appropriation for state arts museum renovation.

**9 New York:** In FY2023, the New York State Council on the Arts received a \$140 million appropriation that included \$50 million in recovery funds and \$50 million in capital projects support, in addition to the agency's base grant-making budget of \$40 million. In FY2024, the arts council received \$40 million for its core grant-making activities and \$20 million for another year of capital projects funding.

**10 North Carolina:** The North Carolina Arts Council received \$15 million in federal ARP Act funding from the state legislature in FY2022, to be spent over FY2023 and FY2024.

**11 North Dakota:** The North Dakota Council on the Arts may receive small royalty and licensing fees in FY2024, but details have not yet been decided.

**12 Tennessee:** The Tennessee Arts Commission received a multiyear \$1 million grant from the state's Department of Health Civil Monetary Penalty Fund for the period of February 1, 2019, to June 30, 2023. In FY2023, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized \$350,000 in expenditures.