

Deploying Dollars Broadly

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) supports community arts activities in all 435 U.S. congressional districts, along with 678 counties that major foundations don't fund. Through its 2,000+ direct grants and an additional 6,837 state and regional awards that regrant federal funds, the NEA achieves broad national reach, especially in rural areas.

Per congressional mandate, 40% of the NEA's grant funds go to states. This exemplary [federal-state partnership](#) amplifies the impact of federal funds and leverages state investments. The partnership yields more than 30,000 awards made by state and jurisdictional arts agencies and regional arts organizations each year, giving every community a stake in sustaining the NEA.

Meeting Federal Objectives

Serving those who serve: In [collaboration](#) with the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the NEA uses the arts to improve health and quality of life for military populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers.

Honoring American heritage: The NEA sponsors [Freedom 250 / America 250 activities](#) that honor America's history and celebrate local cultural traditions. State arts agencies play [leadership roles](#) in semiquincentennial events at the state level.

Boosting education outcomes: Arts education activities supported by the NEA and state arts agencies [improve](#) attendance, academic achievement and learning engagement.

Facilitating good health: [Research shows](#) that the arts promote healing; increase physical and mental well-being; support caregiving teams; and help [older adults](#) lead active, healthy, meaningful lives.

Exemplifying efficiency and accountability: The NEA has streamlined its grant programs, realigned its staff, complied with executive orders and adopted the President's "gold standard" science protocols. Grants are competitively adjudicated on the basis of merit.

Return on Investment

The NEA offers a big bang for the buck. Every \$1 the NEA invests in grants leverages \$9 in local and private matches.

Achieving economic independence: The arts and creative industries [generate](#) a \$36.8 billion trade surplus and add \$1.2 trillion in value to the U.S. gross domestic product. The NEA and state arts agencies catalyze cultural production and grow the talent pool for this important American industry that creates 5.4 million jobs on American soil.

Learn More

[The Arts and America's Bottom Line](#)

[Better Together](#)

[The Arts as a Nonpartisan Issue](#)