

State Arts Budgets Navigate Fiscal Constrains in FY2026 following Postpandemic Adjustments

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Aggregate legislative appropriations to state and jurisdictional arts agencies (SAAs) decreased by 5.9% in fiscal year 2026, according to [new data](#) published by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and an accompanying report, [State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2026](#). The aggregated decrease is evidence of varied fiscal conditions across states, primarily reflecting the phasing out of COVID-19 pandemic-era surpluses and one-time allocations—particularly in line item funding, which fell 43% nationally.

Legislative appropriations to SAAs decreased from \$686.8 million in FY2025 to \$646.0 million in FY2026.

Together, appropriations to SAAs equal an investment of \$1.88 per capita, a \$0.12 (6%) decrease from the previous year.

"State investments strengthen and celebrate America by ensuring that the educational, economic and health benefits of the arts reach every community," said NASAA President and CEO Pam Breaux. "State arts agencies play a vital role in providing opportunities for everyone to engage in the arts and creativity in ways that align with local priorities."

While aggregate appropriations to SAAs declined in FY2026, many states reported flat or increased funding. Thirty-six states and jurisdictions increased or maintained funding levels in FY2026, with a median rise of 6.6%, while 20 experienced decreases. When line item appropriations are excluded, base legislative funding increased 2.6% from FY2025 to \$572.9 million, suggesting that core agency operations remain relatively stable.

- Appropriations to state and jurisdictional arts agencies comprise **0.044% (less than one-tenth of one percent)** of total state general fund expenditures in FY2026.
- States currently invest **\$646.0 million**—about \$1.88 per capita—in state arts agencies.
- State arts agencies use legislative appropriations to make more than **30,000 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 health and well-being](#) for all Americans.

This reflects a normalizing fiscal environment following years of unprecedented state revenues and stimulus measures. According to the [National Association of State Budget Officers](#), state general fund spending is expected to be nearly flat in FY2026, with enacted budgets reflecting a 1.3% aggregate increase. Many states are engaging in fiscal tightening as major one-time allocations phase out, though states retain strong fiscal buffers, with rainy-day funds near all-time highs.

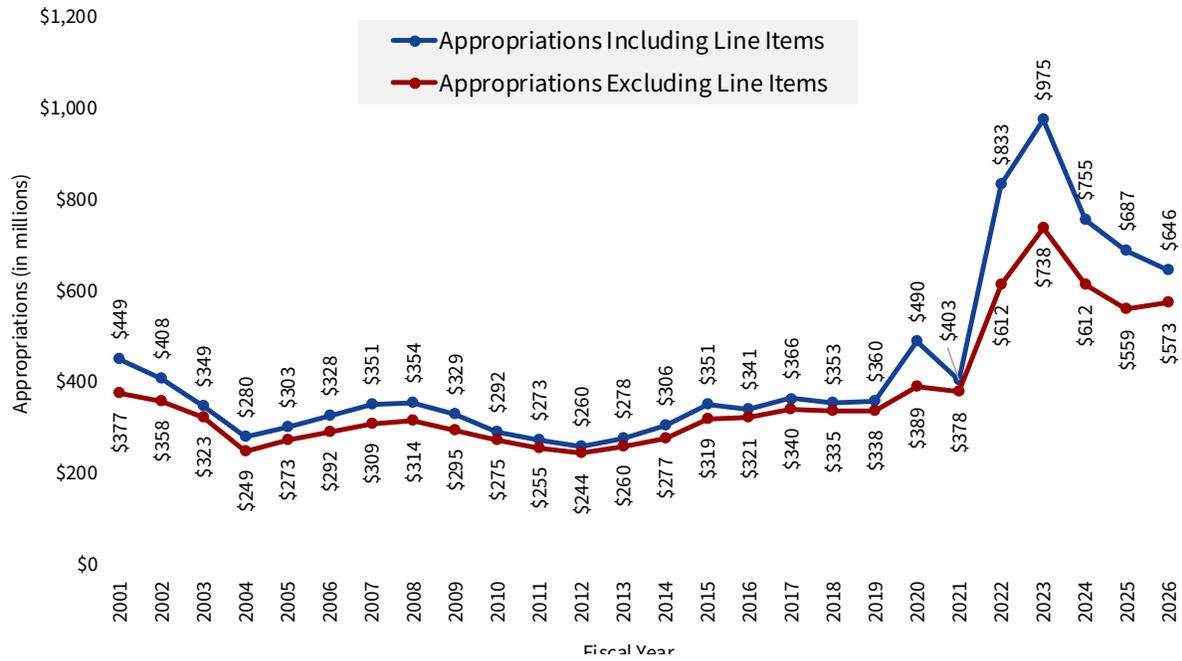
The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. In collaboration with the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts councils, NASAA advances the arts as a powerful path to economic prosperity, rural resilience, good health, education success and strong communities 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: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations Changes
Fiscal Years 2025–2026

Increases	
Number of SAAs	25
Number of SAAs up 10%+	11
Median percent increase	6.6%
Flat Funding*	
Number of SAAs	11
Decreases	
Number of SAAs	20
Number of SAAs down 10%+	11
Median percent decrease	-12.8%
All States	
Aggregate percent change	-5.9%
Median percent change	0.05%
*Flat funding includes changes of less than 0.5% in magnitude.	

Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, State Arts Agency Revenues, Fiscal Year 2026

Figure 2: State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations
Fiscal Years 2001-2026



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 2026

Table 1: State Arts Agency Total Legislative Appropriations
Fiscal Years 2025–2026

State or Special Jurisdiction	Legislative Appropriations Including Line Items		Percent Change FY25 to FY26
	FY2025	FY2026	
Alabama ♦	\$8,158,074	\$8,467,537	3.8%
Alaska	\$940,300	\$990,500	5.3%
American Samoa	\$338,500	\$293,500	-13.3%
Arizona	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0.0%
Arkansas	\$1,470,904	\$1,283,091	-12.8%
California	\$32,392,000	\$34,804,000	7.4%
Colorado	\$3,330,259	\$3,519,038	5.7%
Connecticut ♦ ^	\$6,908,696	\$9,176,774	32.8%
1 Delaware	\$5,906,800	\$6,434,700	8.9%
District of Columbia ♦	\$46,319,805	\$44,754,343	-3.4%
2 Florida ♦	\$30,670,843	\$39,980,263	30.4%
Georgia	\$1,587,150	\$1,587,150	0.0%
Guam ♦	\$421,950	\$421,950	0.0%
Hawai'i	\$16,050,607	\$19,000,107	18.4%
Idaho	\$933,400	\$941,300	0.8%
Illinois ♦	\$25,728,526	\$25,348,300	-1.5%
Indiana	\$5,197,761	\$3,278,256	-36.9%
3 Iowa ^	\$2,220,493	\$2,220,203	0.0%
Kansas	\$1,521,173	\$1,000,000	-34.3%
Kentucky	\$1,833,500	\$1,804,500	-1.6%
Louisiana	\$2,112,377	\$2,080,617	-1.5%
Maine	\$1,041,201	\$1,195,839	14.9%
Maryland	\$34,250,622	\$33,969,051	-0.8%
Massachusetts	\$26,850,000	\$26,975,152	0.5%
Michigan	\$11,129,201	\$11,335,200	1.9%
Minnesota	\$58,321,000	\$45,484,000	-22.0%
Mississippi	\$9,943,577	\$9,894,957	-0.5%
Missouri	\$54,437,132	\$17,057,686	-68.7%
Montana ^	\$1,129,039	\$1,385,603	22.7%
Nebraska ^	\$2,628,779	\$2,668,359	1.5%
Nevada	\$2,442,670	\$2,824,179	15.6%
4 New Hampshire	\$905,307	\$165,000	-81.8%
New Jersey ♦	\$41,055,000	\$35,455,000	-13.6%
New Mexico	\$1,689,800	\$1,709,900	1.2%
New York ♦	\$86,783,651	\$82,191,485	-5.3%
5 North Carolina	\$12,408,629	\$11,725,890	-5.5%
North Dakota ^	\$1,313,524	\$1,318,768	0.4%
Northern Marianas	\$188,144	\$208,937	11.1%
Ohio	\$25,563,000	\$26,710,595	4.5%
6 Oklahoma	\$4,558,907	\$4,308,180	-5.5%
7 Oregon	\$8,059,487	\$14,480,737	79.7%
Pennsylvania	\$10,643,000	\$10,643,000	0.0%
Puerto Rico	\$18,649,000	\$19,598,000	5.1%
Rhode Island	\$2,412,492	\$2,414,685	0.1%
8 South Carolina ♦	\$12,250,618	\$11,603,268	-5.3%
South Dakota	\$1,410,250	\$1,431,204	1.5%
Tennessee	\$16,020,600	\$16,440,977	2.6%
9 Texas	\$14,319,358	\$18,288,573	27.7%
Utah	\$10,835,100	\$8,925,700	-17.6%
Vermont	\$973,848	\$1,096,800	12.6%
Virgin Islands	\$366,475	\$366,475	0.0%
10 Virginia ^	\$7,430,398	\$4,590,173	-38.2%
Washington	\$7,813,000	\$6,793,000	-13.1%
11 West Virginia	\$811,500	\$1,085,924	33.8%
Wisconsin	\$1,083,000	\$1,184,238	9.3%
Wyoming	\$1,077,773	\$1,077,773	0.0%
Total	\$686,838,200	\$645,990,437	-5.9%

Table Notes

♦ Percent change can be 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.

1 Delaware: In FY2026, the Delaware Division of the Arts budget includes a \$60,000 partnership with the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities to provide continued Access Creative Aging programming to Delaware senior centers and libraries.

2 Florida: The FY2026 appropriation reflects the restoration of Florida Division of Arts and Culture grants following a one-time cut in FY2025.

3 Iowa: The FY2026 appropriation includes \$321,800 for the Arts and Culture Enhancement Fund, a new state appropriation line item that replaces the former state appropriation line items for Cultural Affairs Grants and the Iowa Cultural Trust.

4 New Hampshire: In FY2026 the legislature enacted a state tax credit to incentivize private contributions to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Proceeds from this fund will appear in future reports.

5 North Carolina: The FY2026 state budget had not yet been enacted at the time of publication. Figures reflect the recurring funds level.

6 Oklahoma: The FY2026 appropriation includes one-time funding of \$100,000 for capitol risk-mitigation measures and \$305,855 for museum collections storage equipment as part of the Jim Thorpe Memorial Building renovation.

7 Oregon: In FY2026, designated grants through Oregon's Cultural Resource Economic Fund support capital construction projects during the 2025–2027 biennium as well as grants to major arts organizations, including Oregon Shakespeare Festival (\$2,500,000) and Portland Center Stage (\$1,500,000).

8 South Dakota: The South Dakota Arts Council's budget is derived from tourism taxes, making it subject to revenue fluctuations and legislative decisions.

9 Texas: The Texas Commission on the Arts received a \$7.9 million funding increase for the next two years, with \$2 million allocated to cultural tourism grants and the remainder directed to general support for arts organizations.

10 Virginia: In FY2025, the Virginia Commission for the Arts received a one-time \$2 million general fund appropriation to expand grants for arts organizations and venues. The funds were carried forward for use in FY2026 and beyond.

11 West Virginia: For FY2026, the majority of the arts office's appropriation is comprised of legislatively directed funds.