

National Endowment for the Humanities FY 2026 Full Year Spend Plan

The NEH FY 2026 full year apportionment includes two footnotes:

- On line 6111, footnote A1 reads *“Of the amounts apportioned on this line, amounts for the following items are immediately available for obligation: the Garden of Heroes project; programming for America 250 celebrations; necessary work to execute the Agency’s legally-required activities for existing grants; and payments otherwise required by law. Amounts apportioned for purposes other than the aforementioned items are available for obligation 10 business days after the Agency provides OMB with a detailed spend plan that includes, but is not limited to, information on the types and timing for new grant awards. [Rationale: OMB requests additional information on programmatic spending for some or all of the apportioned funds.]”*
- On lines 6112-6115, footnote A3 reads *“Amounts apportioned on this line are available for obligation consistent with the latest agreed-upon spend plan pertaining to such amounts between the agency and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Any revisions or additions to such spend plan shall be proposed to OMB in writing no later than five business days before the anticipated obligation of funds based on such revision or addition. In the absence of an agreed-upon spend plan between the agency and OMB, the agency may obligate funds on this line only as necessary for the Garden of Heroes project, programming for America250 celebrations, necessary work to execute the Agency’s legally-required activities for existing grants, and payments otherwise required by law. [Rationale: An agency spend plan or other documentation is necessary to better understand how the agency intends to obligate some or all of their apportioned funds.]”*

Overview

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is working across government on the National Garden of American Heroes and is awarding grants to procure the statues for the Garden (NEH received \$40M in Public Law 119-21 to procure statues – that funding is not included in this spend plan).

Additionally, NEH is focused on awarding grants that align with the Administration’s priorities. Specifically, the Agency is issuing awards tied to the following priorities:

- Combatting antisemitism (Executive Order 13899 and Executive Order 14188)
- Honoring the Nation’s 250th anniversary (Executive Order 14189)
- Advancing knowledge of US history and the nation’s foundations (Executive Order 14190 (“Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling”))
- Executive Order 14283 (“White House Initiative To Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities”)
- Executive Order 14253 (“Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History”)
- Executive Order 14202 (“Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias”).

Category B Projects

	Apportioned Amount (Dollars in Thousands)	Description
Program Funds – Definite	\$129,640,512	Issued \$43.65M in awards that were approved in FY 2025 but could not be awarded by September 30, 2025. This included one award from the March meeting of the National Council of the Humanities, all the awards from the July Council meeting, and 22 awards approved by the Acting Chairman (the Chairman of NEH can approve awards up to \$30,000 without review by the National Council of the Humanities). Made 23 awards totaling \$0.684M that have been approved by the Acting Chairman since October 1, 2025. Per the Agency’s spend plan approved by OMB in September 2025, \$2M of Special Initiative funds are reserved for the Arch. \$34M - \$17 million of Agency funding, as well as \$17 million provided in FY 2025 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) - is for the National Garden of American Heroes to be obligated throughout the fiscal year. NEH has reserved \$5M in funding for DC beautification. \$34.8 million of Federal/State Partnership funds are being held in “escrow” due to pending litigation. These funds are not committed or obligated – they are being held in reserve.
Matching Grants	\$32,028,177	\$0.677 million for 29 <i>Celebrate America!</i> grants have been awarded

		since October 1, 2025. <i>Celebrate America!</i> is an initiative launched in FY 2025 to recognize the nation's semiquincentennial in 2026 and are funded through matching funds. These awards are \$25,000 or less and are approved by the Acting Chairman. \$15.5M of funding for two awards was approved at the November meeting of the National Council of the Humanities. Funding will be obligated throughout FY 2026 as the required match is raised and certified by NEH. This will be for projects approved in prior fiscal years where the match is met this fiscal year. To date, \$323,330 has been awarded in matching funds for previously approved projects. Per the Agency's spend plan approved by OMB in September 2025, \$13M of matching funds are reserved for the Arch.
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Category AB Projects

	Apportioned Amount (Dollars in Thousands)	Description
1 st quarter – Program Definite	\$69,179,400	Held two meetings of the National Council of the Humanities to approve grants that align with Administration priorities. In October, grants totaling \$28.3M were approved, and in November grants totaling \$30M were approved. Of the awards approved at the October Council meeting, five America250 projects totaling \$11.9M were awarded.
2 nd quarter – Program Definite	\$34,246,600	NEH will continue to issue awards that were approved at the October

		and November Council meetings, as well as awards previously approved by the Acting Chairman.
3 rd quarter – Program Definite	\$21,600,000	Issue \$30M of General Operating Support awards to the State Humanities Councils. Continue to issue previously approved awards. Hold the June meeting of the National Council of the Humanities to approve grants that align with Administration priorities, specifically America250. The amount and number of projects that will be funded is unknown at this time and is dependent on the decision of the Council and the final motion signed by the Chairman; awards will be issued starting in Q4.
4 th quarter – Program Definite	\$41,974,000	Collect \$17M from the National Endowment of the Arts to support work on the National Garden of American Heroes. Begin to issue awards approved at the June meeting of the National Council of the Humanities. NEH expects that issuance of awards will extend into the first quarter of FY 2027.
4 th quarter – Matching Grants	\$15,000,000	Continue to fund awards from prior years that raise their required match, and it is certified by NEH in FY 2026.