1990

Reauthorization: State Grant Formula (1990): Correspondence 01

Anne Neal

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Mr. Alexander Crary  
Subcommittee on Education, Arts  
and Humanities  
Committee on Labor and Human Resources  
United States Senate  
648 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: NEH Discretionary Fund

Dear Sandy:

As you requested, I am enclosing some additional materials outlining the use of the Chairman's "34 percent discretionary fund." The full 34 percent pot each year is determined by adding the grants for population distribution, exemplaries, public meetings, merit awards and "other," plus the allocations set forth on the page entitled, "Portion ... Not Directly Awarded to State Councils," and the "Definite" column on the page entitled "State Programs - Matching."

Two memos attached are explanatory in nature and shed further light on the "other" items for which the discretionary fund is used. The August memo highlights restructuring in the state programs to be effected in FY 1991.

I hope this is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Anne Neal  
General Counsel and  
Congressional Liaison

Enclosure
MEMORANDUM

TO: Rex Arney
FROM: Marjorie A. Berlincourt
SUBJECT: Request from Senator Pell's Office

As you requested, I have prepared the following information on funding to the state humanities councils from the Division of State Programs:

1. Three charts detailing funding for FY89, FY88, and FY87.

2. A narrative gloss on the allocation of funds to the state councils.


4. Guidelines for the preparation of Biennial Proposals with details on Merit Award funding on page 5.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Attachments
EXPLANATION OF THE FUNDING TABLES
Division of State Programs
FY89, FY88, FY87

Population Distribution
Funds are allocated on the basis of population to the state humanities councils from the 34 per cent authorized for the NEH Chairman over and above the councils' base grants. Beginning in FY1989, a floor of $20,000 was established. These funds can be used for matching or added to the council's regrant budget.

FY 89: $1,416,057.
FY 88: $1,000,001.
FY 87: $1,000,000.

Funds for Public Meetings
To assist the councils in complying with the Congressional requirement that they hold public meetings to discuss their state plan, the NEH Chairman provides $10,000 to each council from the 34 per cent portion of the appropriation.

Definite Funds Supplementing Treasury Funds
In order to provide additional matching funds to the state humanities councils, definite funds listed below from the 34 per cent are used to supplement the Treasury Funds allocated by the NCH Chairman for the state councils from the agency's appropriation of Treasury Funds.

FY 89: $1,211,028
FY 88: $564,475
FY 87: $441,803

State and Regional Exemplary Awards and Planning Grants
Beginning in 1983, all state humanities councils are eligible to apply every year for grants from the State and Regional Exemplary Award program offered by the Division of State Programs with funding from the 34 per cent allocated to the Chairman of NEH. The purpose of this program is to enable state humanities councils to undertake outstanding statewide projects of a scope they might not otherwise be able to undertake. Awards range from $75,000 for a major statewide project to $170,000 or more for a regional project that involves a number of state councils. Since 1987, state councils are also eligible for planning grants to enable them to undertake the necessary background research and to hold meetings of advisors in preparation for the submission of an application for a major statewide or regional project. These applications are evaluated by a peer review panel of individuals well acquainted with the work of the state humanities councils.

The attached guidelines are sent to each state council well in advance of the annual deadline and division staff routinely comment on draft proposals before the final proposal is submitted for review.
Merit Awards

From 1983 to 1989 state a council whose program was judged to be outstanding as a result of the peer review of the council's Biennial Proposal was awarded additional funding in the amount of $50,000 for the biennium. These Merit Awards provided recognition to those councils whose programs were judged to be of the highest quality overall. The national recognition these awards provided was effective in assisting the councils in their fund raising from both the private sector and from agencies of state government. All councils were eligible for these awards in the year in which they submitted their Biennial Proposal. The guidelines for the preparation of the Biennial Proposal contained the criteria by which the proposals would be evaluated. (See attachment.)

Funding for the Territories

At present 53 state humanities councils are in operation, with provision in the legislation for the addition of humanities councils in Guam, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa. Because of ongoing and increased interest from these territories in recent years to establish humanities councils, funding for their base grants of $200,000 each has been reserved at the beginning of the fiscal year in the event these territories presented a plan for full operation during the fiscal year. For example, the $201,000 awarded to the Virgin Islands in FY1989 is their base grant. Guam has presented a plan for full operation of a humanities council this year and will receive its base grant from this reserve in FY90. The amount of the funding for the territories not allocated to the territories by the end of the fiscal year is forward funded to one or two other state councils providing them with a portion of their next year's base grant. The amount that is forward funded to a council is deducted from the amount the council is awarded in the new fiscal year.

FY89: The state humanities councils that received part of their next year's funding were California ($97,479), Connecticut ($230,586).
FY 88: California ($306,760), Vermont ($49,941).
FY 87: California ($196,816), Vermont ($206,000).

Sabbaticals

Executive directors with three years of service have been eligible to apply when they submit their council's funding request for a two-month sabbatical (salary plus fringe benefits). The funds are provided as a supplement from the 34 per cent authorized for use by the NEH Chairman to the council's administrative budget.

FY 89: Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma
Supplements and Conversions of Matching Funds to Outright Funds

State councils may request additional funds to cover unanticipated costs or emergencies for which they had not made provision in their administrative budgets. In a few cases in which a gift received by a council was not eligible to release matching funds, the councils requested and received conversion of the matching offer to outright funds. Funds for these purposes are provided from the 34 per cent authorized for use by the NEH Chairman.

FY 89: Arkansas, $5,000 to cover costs of recruitment of a new executive director.
       Nebraska, $1,000 for travel costs for a second planning meeting.
       Wyoming, $26,788 conversion of matching offer to outright funds.
       Puerto Rico, $15,000 annual supplement to cover costs of translation of reports; $4,166 conversion of part of matching offer to outright.

FY 88: Rhode Island, $10,000 supplement to purchase computer equipment.
       Alaska, $16,733 conversion of part of matching offer to outright.
       Hawai'i, $37,000 conversion of matching offer to outright.
       Puerto Rico, $15,000 annual supplement to cover translation costs.

FY 87: Tennessee, $10,000 supplement to develop computer program for grants management.
       Montana, $2,000 supplement to hire consultant for archival project for Montana council.
       Puerto Rico, $15,000 annual supplement to cover translation costs.