

1979

State Humanities Committees (1979-1982): Correspondence 02

James F. Veninga

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 **TEXAS COMMITTEE
FOR THE HUMANITIES**

P.O. Box 19096
Arlington, Texas 76019
(817) 273-3174

June 16, 1979

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Betsy McCreight, Vice Chairperson
Federation of Public Programs in the Humanities
113 Fairfax Drive
Huntington, WV 25705

Dear Betsy:

The funding formula for the state humanities program as found in the current legislation is a matter of concern to some state committees. There appears to be general agreement that the formula as presently constituted should be revised to allow for greater equity in the process of allocating federal funds to the various states.

The Texas Committee for the Humanities has reviewed this matter, and it is our feeling that reauthorizing legislation should contain a revised formula. It is our belief that the new formula must respond adequately to the needs of both large and small states, while giving the NEH flexibility in meeting particular needs and rewarding special accomplishments within the individual states.

Enclosed please find the formula suggested by the TCH. While providing an adequate financial base to which each state committee would be entitled (\$250,000), the suggested formula provides a more prominent role for determining additional allocations on a per capita basis. However, per capita allocations would not be automatic, in light of the review process required. Sufficient funds would remain for the discretionary use of the NEH in rewarding programs of excellence and in meeting particular needs that may exist in some of the states, regardless of population.

I trust that the Federation's NEH Liaison Subcommittee will have an opportunity to review this matter; it would be good if the members of the Federation could respond to the various proposals that have been made by state committees in recent weeks.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Veninga
Executive Director

JFV/jh
xc: B.J. Stiles
Steve Weiland

REVISED FUNDING FORMULA

The following suggested formula is based on the NEH request to the Congress of \$22.5 million for the Division of State Programs.

Grant allocations to state humanities entities would be based on the following provisions:

1. 60% of the total available funds shall be awarded to authorized humanities entities in the 50 states and 2 jurisdictions on an equal basis, with \$500,000 of the total amount provided under this provision reserved for humanities entities in the 4 territories.
2. 30% of the total available funds shall be awarded to authorized humanities entities in the 50 states and 2 jurisdictions on a per capita basis, subject to a review process that considers the extent to which each entity is meeting the expressed humanities needs and interests in the state as evidenced by evaluation of past programming efforts and plans submitted to the NEH for future programming.

Funds not allocated through this provision shall be available to state entities qualifying under provisions outlined in paragraph #3 below.

3. 10% of the total funds, and any funds not awarded under paragraph #2 above, shall be available to the Chairman of the NEH for allocation to the state humanities entities on the basis of geography, merit, and other factors deemed important by the Chairman.

On the basis of the current appropriation request, the above provision would result in the following allocations:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a) Available through paragraph #1: | \$ 13,500,000* |
| b) Available through paragraph #2: | \$ 6,750,000 |
| c) Available through paragraph #3: | <u>\$ 2,250,000</u> |
| | \$ 22,500,000 |

* On the basis of the current appropriations request, provisions outlined in paragraph #1 would result in each state humanities entity receiving \$250,000 and each territorial entity receiving \$125,000.