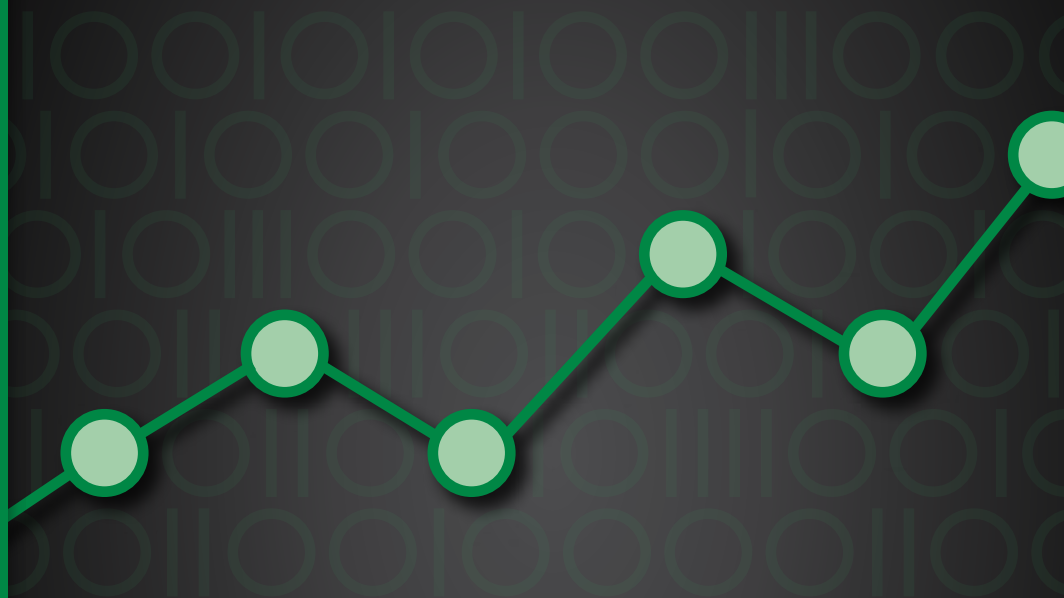




# HUMANITIES INDICATORS

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES



## THE STATE OF THE HUMANITIES: FUNDING 2014

[humanitiesindicators.org](http://humanitiesindicators.org)

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## Introduction

The humanities cover a wide range of subjects and fields of inquiry, including languages, literature, history, and philosophy, among others. And they take a wide variety of forms—extending from the often solitary research work of individual scholars to collaborative digital humanities projects and institutionalized collections of museums and historical societies.

Humanities funding streams are equally diverse.

The humanities receive relatively small amounts of funding in comparison to other areas of knowledge, but this report shows a field being squeezed on several sides, with federal funding, state support for higher education, and charitable giving to the humanities all flagging since 2007. In some cases, the most recent available data show increases in funding, but the totals remain below their pre-recession levels.

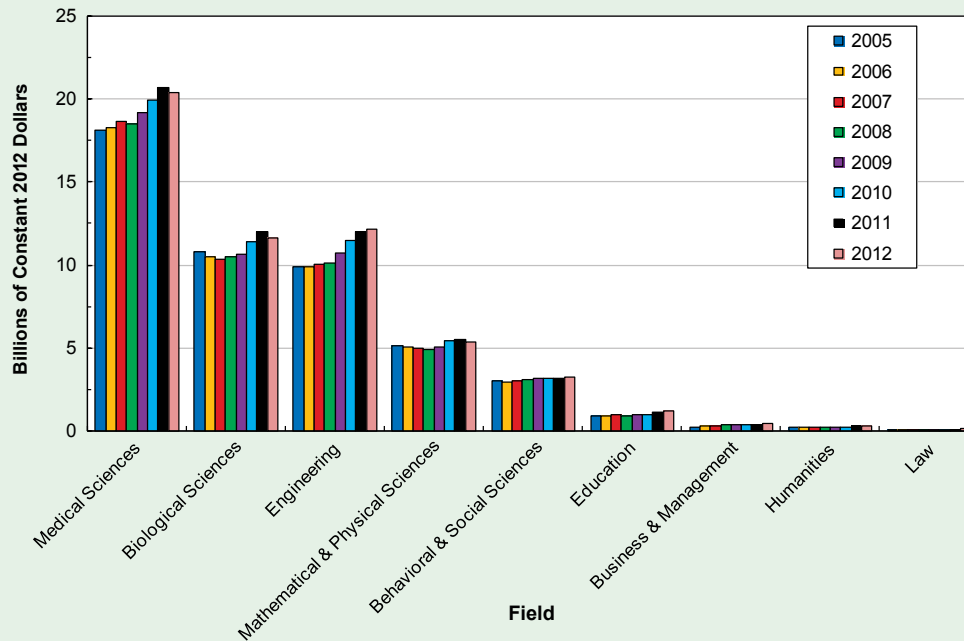
Drawing on information gathered for the **Humanities Indicators** ([www.humanitiesindicators.org](http://www.humanitiesindicators.org)), this report attempts to highlight the array of funding sources, large and small, that underwrites the humanities, while summarizing the most current data available in spring 2014.

Visit the Humanities Indicators website for related information and additional background on all these findings.



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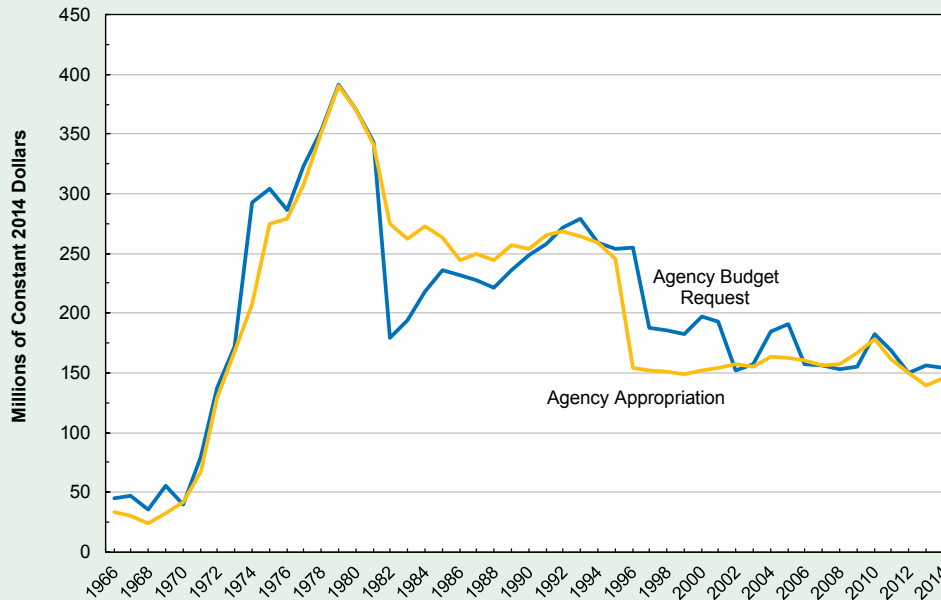
## Academic Research and Development (R&D) Expenditures in the Humanities and Other Selected Fields, Fiscal Years 2005–2012 (Adjusted for Inflation)



Even at their 2012 high, expenditures on humanities R&D were dwarfed by those on research in the sciences and engineering. For example, expenditures on medical research were 60 times larger than funding for research in the humanities. Spending for humanities research equaled 0.55% of the amount dedicated to science and engineering R&D (when all scientific fields—including agricultural sciences and others not depicted here—are considered).



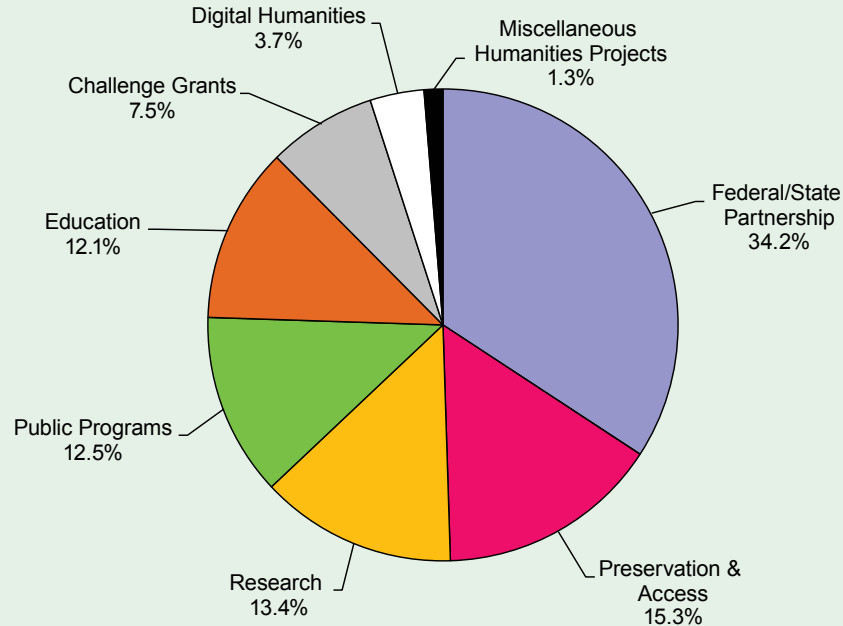
## National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Budget Request versus Final Appropriation, Fiscal Years 1966–2014 (Adjusted for Inflation)



The NEH—the principal federal agency supporting projects in the humanities—prospered from the late 1960s to 1979, before funding fell sharply in the 1980s, and again in 1995. Since that time, appropriations have been relatively flat. After a slight surge in funding that peaked in 2010, funds have fallen again in recent years due to inflation and cuts in appropriations, bringing the agency’s resources down to \$146 million in 2014.



## Distribution of NEH Program Funds among Activity Types, Fiscal Year 2013



The NEH supports a wide array of humanities activities. In 2013, the state humanities councils received approximately a third of the endowment's program funds (see page 8 for each council's per capita revenues). Activities in areas of public programs (bringing the humanities to diverse audiences via television, film, traveling exhibitions, and other means); preser-

vation and access activities (including the production of reference materials and resources, the digitization of historically significant newspapers, and the documentation of endangered languages); education; and research each received similar amounts of funding—from 12 to 15% of the endowment's program funds.



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## Beyond NEH: Other Federal Support of Humanities Activities, Fiscal Years (FY) 2008–2015 (Adjusted for Inflation)

	FY 2008: Appropriation	FY 2014: Appropriation	FY 2015: President's Request
	Constant FY 2014 Dollars (Millions)		
<b>National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)</b>	157.1	146.0	146.0
<b>CABINET-LEVEL AGENCIES</b>			
<b>Department of Education</b>			
• Foreign Language Assistance Program	27.9	0.0	0.0
• Javits Fellowships*	10.3	0	0
• International Education & Foreign Language Studies	118.7	72.0	76.0
• Teaching American History Program	130.6	0	0
<b>Department of Interior</b>			
• National Park Service (NPS) Programs Dedicated to History & Historic Preservation	101.1	74.1	64.6
<b>Department of State</b>			
• Bureau of Educational Cultural Affairs			
◦ Fulbright Program	239.8	234.7	204.2
◦ Special Academic Exchanges: American Overseas Research Centers†	4.1	4.0	0
• Bureau of Intelligence & Outreach: Title VIII (Russia, Eastern Europe, Eurasia)‡	5.4	0	0
<b>INDEPENDENT AGENCIES</b>			
<b>National Archives &amp; Records Administration (NARA)</b>			
• National Historical Publications & Records Commission	10.3	4.5	5.0
<b>National Science Foundation</b>			
• Social, Behavioral, & Economic Sciences: Endangered Languages Initiative with NEH	3.3	3.0	3.0
<b>United States Institute of Peace</b>	27.2	37.0	35.3
<b>Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars</b>	10.6	10.5	10.0
<b>OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES</b>			
<b>Library of Congress (LOC)</b>			
• John W. Kluge Center	8.7	8.0	8.0

Many federal entities support the humanities as part of their general operations (such as the Smithsonian Institution and the Institute of Museum and Library Services). But among programs that focus specifically on humanities activities, we estimate that from 2008 to 2014 federal support fell from \$855 million to \$594 million (when adjusted for inflation).

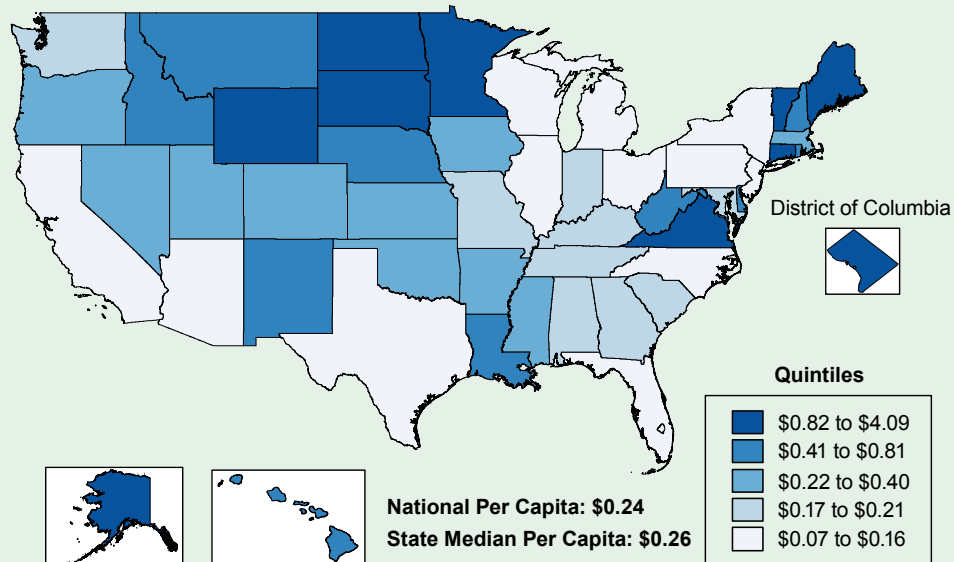
Programs in the Department of Education experienced the largest reductions, including elimination of both the Teaching American History Program and the Javits Fellowship Program (the only federal program supporting graduate education in the humanities), as well as deep cuts in budget lines supporting foreign language, area, and other international studies. In the 2013 sequester, the State Department suspended Title VIII funds for Russian, Eurasian, and East European studies, and those funds have not been restored.





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## Humanities Council Revenues, Per Capita, by State (including the District of Columbia), Fiscal Year 2012



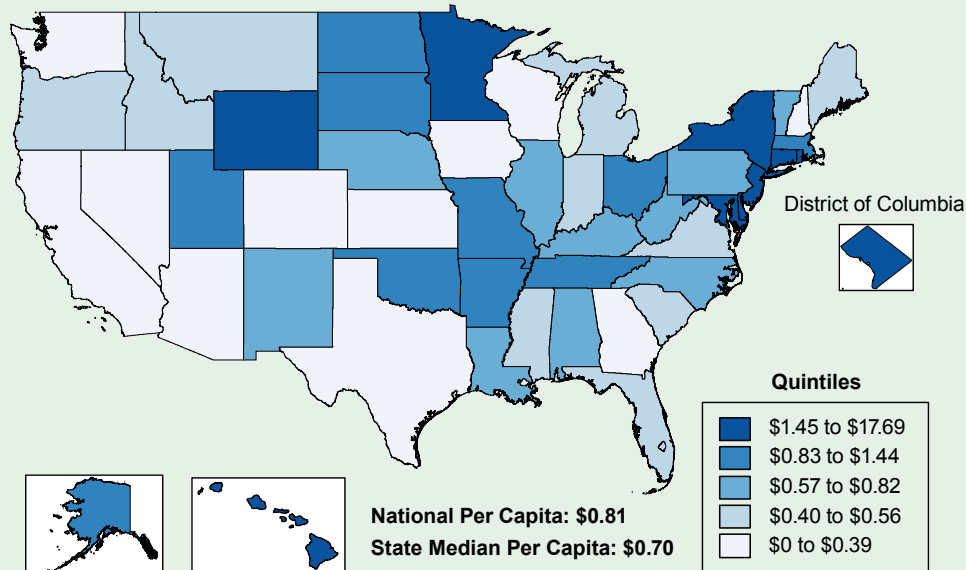
At the state and local level, the state humanities councils provide significant support for the humanities. The councils are independent, not-for-profit entities that support the humanities through local programs, grants to institutions and educators, and a variety of other services. (For details about the councils and their recent activities, visit <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/fedstate/about>.)

In 2012, the councils' per capita revenue levels ranged from \$0.07 for the state of California to over \$1 for the District of Columbia and the states of Maine, Vermont, and Wyoming. The median state per capita revenue level was \$0.26. Even with the contributions from state governments and private entities, as of 2012, almost 63% of council funding came from the federal government, nearly all from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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## Amounts Appropriated by States for Their Arts Agencies, Per Capita, by State (including the District of Columbia), Fiscal Year 2013



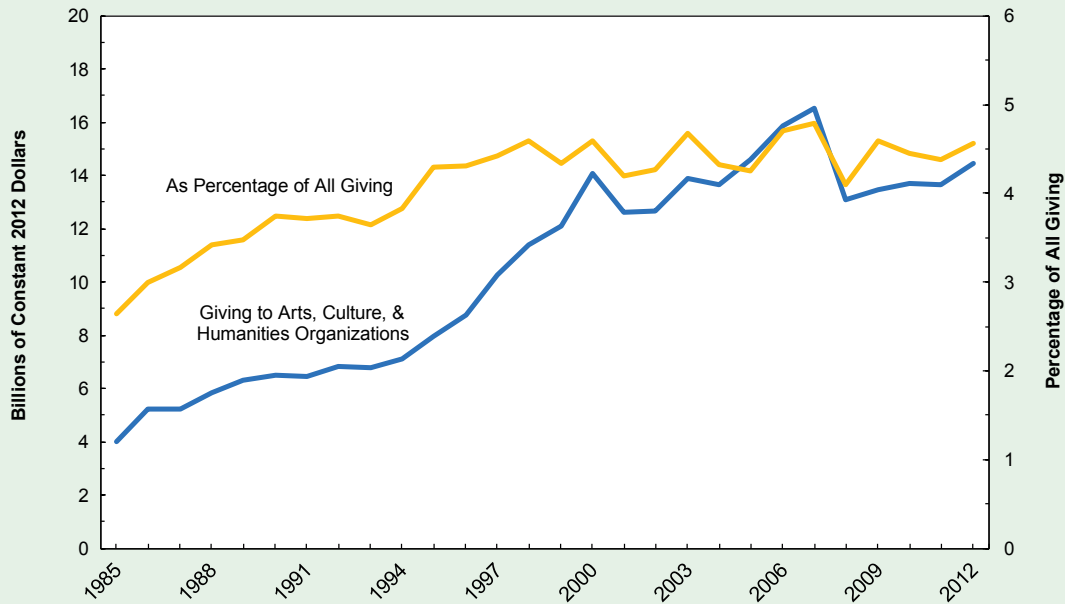
The states support arts agencies that underwrite many humanities-related activities. Funding for these agencies has been marked by long stretches of steady growth followed by shorter periods of decline, but the national trends mask considerable variation in funding at the state level. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the median appropriation was \$0.70 per resident.

Arizona did not provide any funds to its state arts agency in 2013, making it unique in the nation. Although they did not eliminate funding altogether, 38 other states reduced their agencies' appropriations from 2007 to 2013.



# THE STATE OF THE HUMANITIES: FUNDING 2014

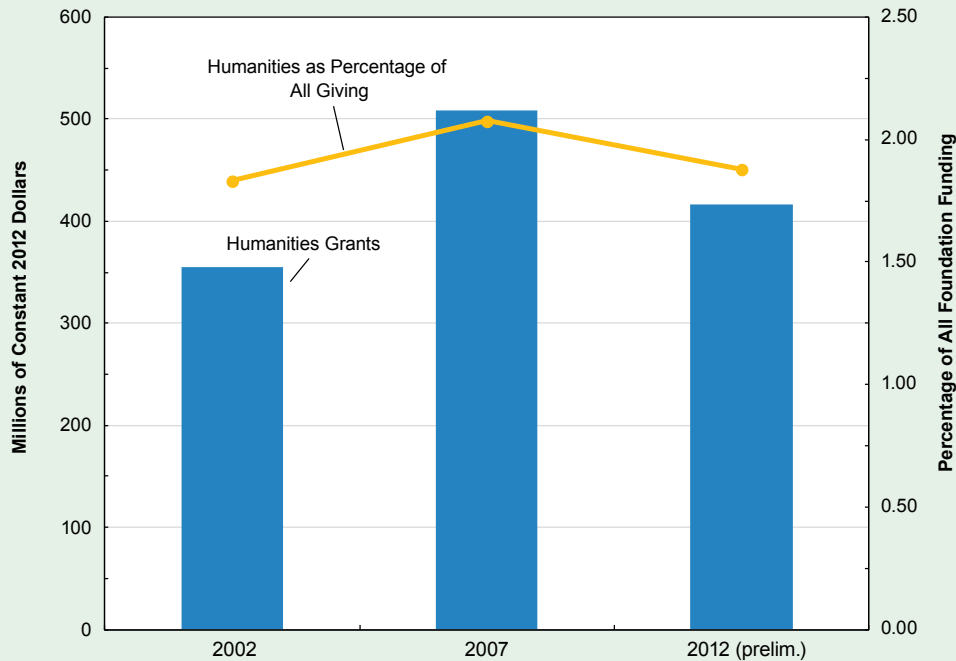
## Individual, Corporate, and Foundation Giving to Arts, Culture, and Humanities Organizations, Total and as a Percentage of All Charitable Giving, 1985–2012



Since government support is comparatively modest, the humanities rely heavily on other charitable sources. The recent recession sharply curtailed charitable giving after 2007, following two decades of almost constant growth. After 2007, contributions declined 21% (to \$13.1 billion), and the levels have recovered slowly in the years since (rising to \$14.4 billion in 2012). Having grown from 1985 to the late 1990s, the share of all private giving going to arts, culture, and humanities organizations then plateaued at around 4.5% of total giving.



## Estimated Value and Share of All Foundation Giving for Humanities Activities, 2002–2012

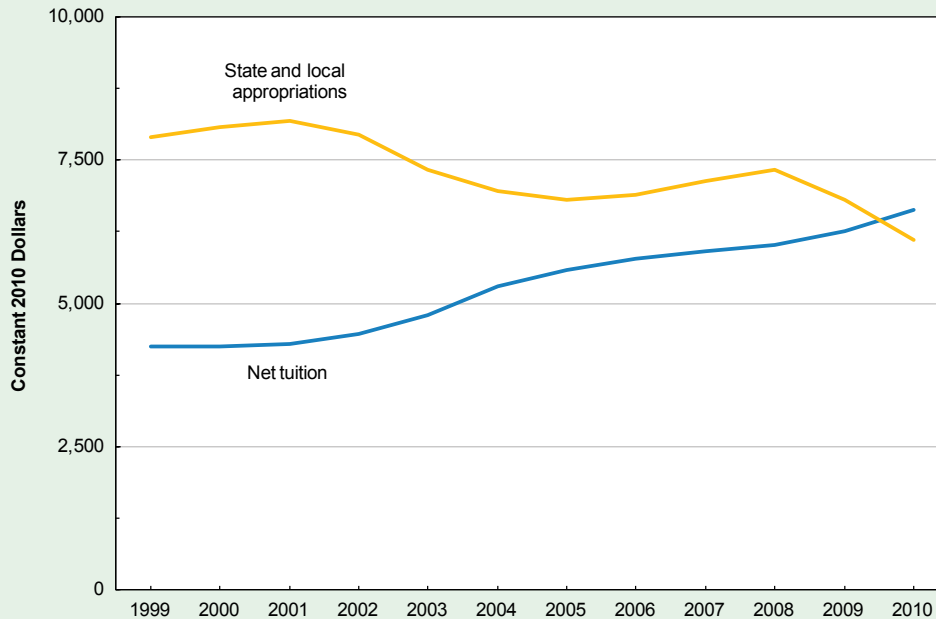


Private funding for the humanities takes myriad forms, but foundations are a substantial source of support for humanities activities in the United States. Data from the Foundation Center suggest this was another area of funding contraction for the humanities. After increasing 43% from 2002 to 2007 (from approximately \$354 million to \$508 million), foundation funding for the humanities fell 18% (to \$416 million) in preliminary estimates for 2012. From 2002 to 2007,

the amount in grants distributed by foundations for humanities activities increased more rapidly than the total amount of grantmaking. Thus, foundation funding for the humanities increased as a share of all giving by such organizations (rising from 1.8% to 2.1%). By 2012, however, the proportion of foundation grant monies going to the humanities had returned to near its 2002 level.



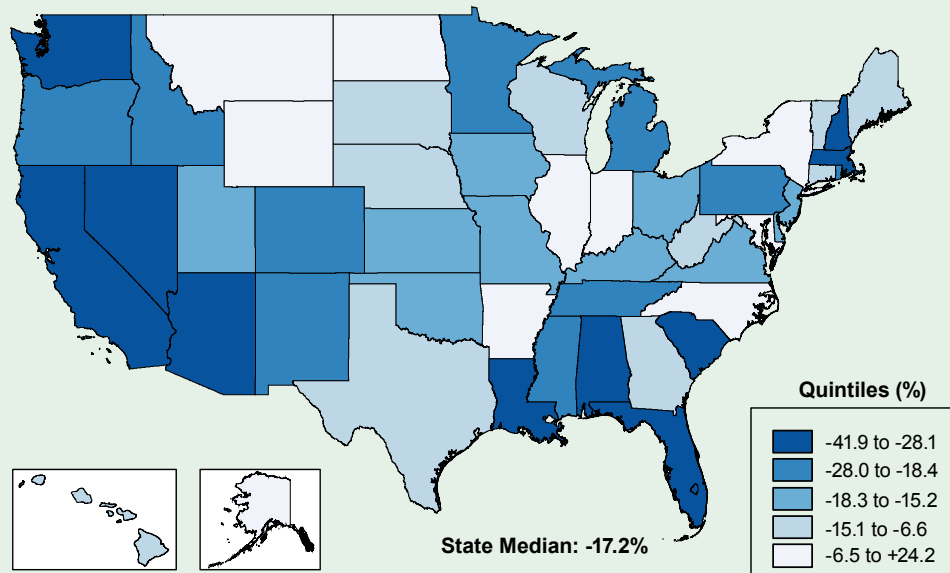
## Average Revenue from Tuition and State Appropriations per FTE Student at Public 4-Year and Graduate Institutions, 1999–2010 (Adjusted for Inflation)



Colleges and universities are key to the humanities enterprise, through their direct subsidy of students and faculty, both in the classroom and in their research. The data show that state support for public colleges and universities has been waning over the past 15 years. One of the clearest indications of state disinvestment in higher education is the fact that tuition recently surpassed state appropriations as a source of revenue for public institutions. Amounts exclude institutions classified as very high research universities, which are tabulated separately but reinforce the same basic trend (converging in 2010).



## Percentage Change Fiscal Years 2008–2013 in State Funding for Higher Education, by State (Adjusted for Inflation)

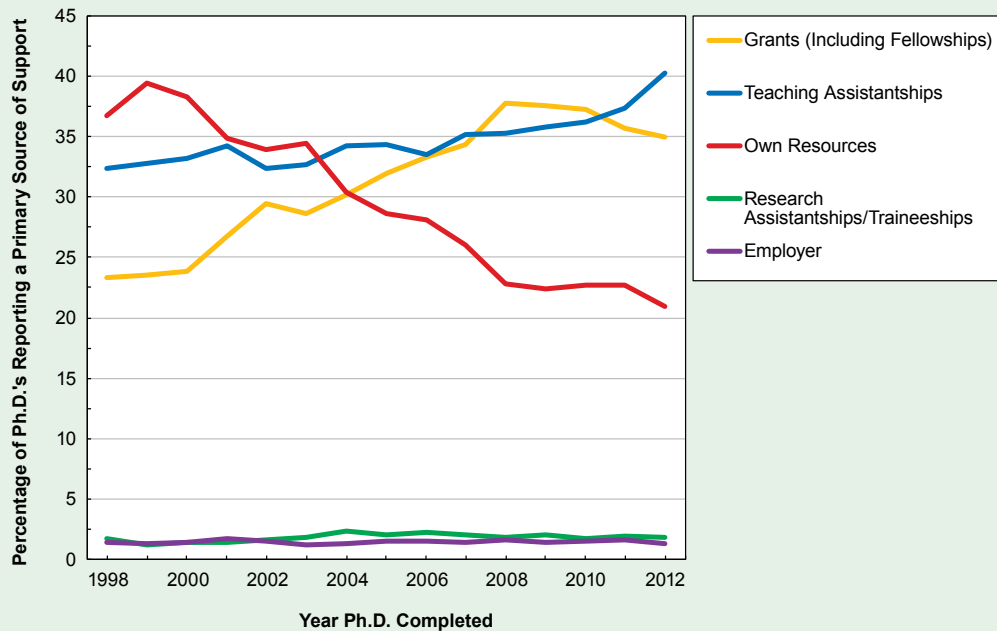


The median state investment in higher education was approximately \$237 per capita in 2013, down from \$276 in 2008. Forty-six of the 50 states reduced support for higher education from 2008 to 2013. Four states (Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana, and New Hampshire) cut their allocations to higher educa-

tion by a third or more over that five-year span. The state median was a 17.2% reduction. Only four states increased their allocations from 2008 to 2013: Illinois (11.0%), Alaska (12.2%), Wyoming (21.3%), and North Dakota (24.2%). (These states also had some of the highest per capita spending levels for 2013.)



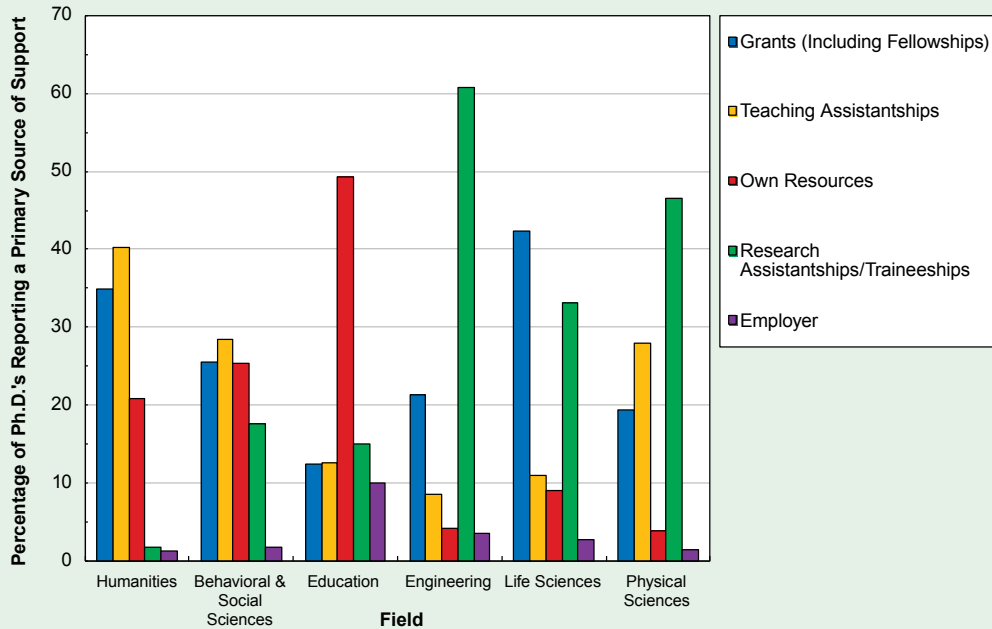
## Primary Source of Financial Support for Doctoral Students in the Humanities, 1998–2012



A largely unacknowledged form of support for the humanities enterprise comes in the form of students subsidizing a portion of their education. In 2012, 64% of Ph.D. recipients reported a teaching or research assistantship, employer subsidy, or their own resources as their primary form of financial support during doctoral training. The share of students not relying on grants or fellowships declined throughout the first decade of the 21st century, but then rose slightly from 2009 to 2012.



## Primary Source of Financial Support for Doctoral Students in Selected Academic Fields, 2012



In 2012, doctorate recipients in the humanities relied more heavily on teaching assistantships as their primary source of income than did doctorate recipients in any other field. Only life science doctorate recipients were more likely than those in the humanities to report grants as their primary form of support.

Humanities doctorate recipients were more likely to cite personal income or savings as their primary source of support than doctorate recipients in the natural sciences and engineering, but doctorate recipients in education were the most dependent on their own resources.





## Data Sources

**Page 4:** National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Research and Development Expenditures at Universities and Colleges/Higher Education Research and Development Survey.

**Page 5:** National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Planning and Budget, and the National Humanities Alliance.

**Page 6:** National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Planning and Budget (provided to the Humanities Indicators upon request).

**Page 7:** Data assembled by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences from various public sources.

Notes for specific line items:

\* The Javits program was the only Department of Education fellowship that actively sought and awarded fellowships to graduate students in the humanities. The Javits program, but not its budget, was folded into the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program (GAANN). The GAANN is focused on awarding grants to students in STEM subjects.

† While the line item has been discontinued, CAORC, which manages these overseas center funds, is still eligible to receive State Department funds within the Special Academic Exchanges program.

‡ The Title VIII program has been an important factor in the development of Soviet and other East European expertise. Beginning in FY 2013, the program received no funding but continues to exist.

**Page 8:** State Federation of Humanities Councils, “2012 Income Survey Report revised 5-13-2013,” [http://www.statehumanities.org/library/2012\\_income\\_survey\\_revised2.xlsx](http://www.statehumanities.org/library/2012_income_survey_revised2.xlsx). Population estimates drawn from “Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013 (NST-EST2013-01)” (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Bureau), <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/>.

**Page 9:** National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Annual Appropriations and Revenue Survey Data. Population estimates drawn from

“Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012 (NST-EST2012-01)” (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Bureau), <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2012/index.html>.

**Page 10:** Giving USA Foundation, *Giving USA 2013: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2012* (Glenview, IL: Giving USA Foundation, 2013).

**Page 11:** The Foundation Center, 2014. Based on the Foundation Center’s FC 1000 data set, which includes all grants of \$10,000 or more awarded to organizations by a set of 1,000 of the largest U.S. private and community foundations by total giving. For community foundations, only discretionary and donor-advised grants are included. Grants to individuals are not included.

**Page 12:** National Science Foundation, “Appendix table 2-4: Average revenue per FTE by institution type: 1987–2010,” Science and Engineering Indicators 2014, <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind14/content/chapter-2/at02-04.xls>.

**Page 13:** J. C. Palmer, ed., “Grapevine: An Annual Compilation of Data on State Fiscal Support for Higher Education,” Table 6: State Fiscal Support for Higher Education by State and by Sources of State Support (Taxes, Others State Monies, Federal Stimulus Funds), Fiscal Years 2007–08, 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11, 2011–12, and 2012–13 (Normal, IL: Center for the Study of Education Policy, Illinois State University, 2013), [http://grapevine.illinoisstate.edu/tables/FY13/Table6\\_FY13.pdf](http://grapevine.illinoisstate.edu/tables/FY13/Table6_FY13.pdf).

**Page 14:** Data drawn from the Survey of Earned Doctorates, a study sponsored by six federal agencies: the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**Page 15:** National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, *Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2012 Data Tables*, NSF 14-305, <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/сед/2012/>.



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