



NEH CHALLENGE GRANTS PROGRAM

Purpose: NEH Challenge Grants support the **long-term** strength of humanities institutions and organizations by encouraging fund raising for permanent endowments and appropriate capital improvements.

Eligibility: With the exception of elementary and secondary schools, any U.S. nonprofit institution (public agency or private nonprofit organization) working wholly or in part within the humanities is eligible to apply. Typical applicants include colleges and universities, museums, public radio and television stations, research centers, public libraries, historical societies, historic sites, scholarly and cultural organizations, and university presses.

Awards: Awards in recent years have averaged between \$375,000 and \$500,000. Applicants may request up to \$1 million. Grantees must raise nonfederal donations of three times the offered NEH funds.

Impact: Since the program's inception in 1977, over 1,500 awards totaling over \$486 million in federal dollars have leveraged more than **\$2 billion** in nonfederal contributions to the humanities.

Competition: In recent years the number of applications to the program has ranged from 100 to 120 annually, and the number of awards between 20 and 25. Applications are particularly encouraged from HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and two-year colleges.

Budget: The program's budget is approximately \$8.25 million.

Deadline: **Challenge Grant Special Initiative for Two-Year Colleges,**
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Deadline: **Regular Challenge Grants, Wednesday, May 1, 2013**

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For guidelines, visit the NEH Website, www.neh.gov, under "NEH Grants"



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

National Endowment for the Humanities
Announces a Special
Challenge Grant Initiative for Two-Year Colleges

Recognizing that community colleges are "an undervalued asset in our country" (President Barack Obama), the NEH invites two-year colleges to apply in a special challenge grant competition to strengthen their long-term humanities programs and resources. Of particular interest to the Endowment are new curricular offerings, workshops, and other **learning opportunities in world cultures and international understanding**. In harmony with the NEH-wide *Bridging Cultures* initiative, the Office of Challenge Grants seeks to support model long-term programs in humanities topics that grow out of the interaction of differing cultures here in the U.S. or elsewhere in the world and that can serve as models for peer institutions.

NEH challenge grants support long-term humanities activities through

- **endowments**, for ongoing programmatic and operating costs in the humanities;
- **capital projects**, such as renovation or construction of facilities for humanities programs (eligible, but not encouraged);
- **acquisitions**, for library resources and archival collections important to the humanities;
- **technology**, for equipment and software to enhance the use of digital technology in the humanities;
- **fundraising**, up to 10% of grant funds may be used to defray fundraising costs for the humanities.

Applicants may request up to \$500,000 in federal funds, though smaller requests are encouraged. NEH challenge grants are matching grants: for this special initiative the required match in nonfederal donations has been reduced from three to two times the federal award, and grantees have up to six years (instead of five) to raise the required match. For complete information about the application process and about the matching requirements, visit the NEH Web site at www.neh.gov.

Questions? **The application deadline is February 20, 2013.** Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov; application guidelines will be posted on the NEH Web site by mid-November. If you would like to discuss a potential application, please call or email the **NEH Office of Challenge Grants at 202-606-8309 or challenge@neh.gov**. Program staff are available to discuss your plans for the humanities, to answer questions, and to review preliminary draft proposals (while such review is not required, it is highly recommended). We look forward to hearing from you.