



## SUMMARY OF

# Humanities Connections

as of August 21, 2020

### AUTHORITY

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Humanities Connections grant program seeks to expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education at two- and four-year institutions. Grants will support innovative curricular approaches that foster productive partnerships among humanities faculty and their counterparts in the social and natural sciences and in pre-service or professional programs (such as business, engineering, health sciences, law, computer science, and other technology-driven fields).

Competitive applications will demonstrate

- that the proposed curricular projects address significant and compelling topics or issues in undergraduate education at the applicant institution(s);
- that these projects engage the intellectual skills and habits of mind cultivated by the humanities; and
- that faculty and students will benefit from meaningful collaborations in teaching and learning across disciplines as a result of the project.

Humanities Connections projects have four core features:

1. substantive and purposeful integration of the subject matter, perspectives, and pedagogical approaches of two or more disciplines (with a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities)
2. collaboration between faculty from two or more separate departments or schools at one or more institutions
3. experiential learning as an intrinsic part of the curricular plan
4. long-term institutional support for the proposed curriculum innovation(s)

The Humanities Connections program is accepting applications in two categories:

*Planning Grants (up to twelve months)* support the interdisciplinary collaboration of faculty from two or more separate departments or schools (a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities), with the goal of designing a new, coherent curricular program or initiative. The grant gives the institution(s) the opportunity to create a firm foundation for implementing the program. Planning goals will include identifying the members of a planning committee and organizing the planning process; defining the rationale, design, and structure that would undergird a comprehensive and institutionally sustainable effort; and establishing potential scenarios for curriculum development. Institutions may draw on current short-term initiatives or curricular programs run by individual departments in this effort. The outcome of a successful planning phase should be a project in, or ready for, the implementation stage.

*Implementation grants (up to three years)* support the interdisciplinary collaboration of faculty from two or more separate departments or schools (a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities), with the

implementation of a sustainable curricular program or initiative as the outcome. Implementation grant proposals must show unambiguous evidence of preceding planning work and present a defined rationale with clear intellectual and logistical objectives that are supported by institutional commitment. The grant gives applicants the opportunity to build on faculty/administrative or institutional partnerships and to develop and refine the project's intellectual content, design, and scope. For example, the applicant should be able to demonstrate potential commitments of any partners or collaborators; outline preferred approaches to curriculum building/consolidation; and explain outreach strategies that will be employed to attract students to the new educational opportunity.

NEH Areas of Interest NEH is especially interested in supporting projects that advance humanities-related work in the following areas.

*"A More Perfect Union": NEH Special Initiative Advancing Civic Education and Commemorating the Nation's 250th Anniversary* As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, NEH encourages projects that promote a deeper understanding of American history and culture and that advance civic education and knowledge of our core principles of government. The agency-wide "A More Perfect Union" initiative will help Americans better understand the world's oldest constitutional democracy and how our founding ideals are met in a modern, pluralistic society.

NEH welcomes consideration of diverse topics in American history, from Native American culture to rural life to the rise of the industrial city, from the Civil War to the Cold War to the Civil Rights movement, etc. We also seek projects that examine foundational documents in U.S. history, as well as projects that examine historical objects, places, traditions, events, and individuals who collectively shaped our states and nation. Applications about the contributions of under-represented communities are highly encouraged.

#### *Standing Together*

In recognition of the importance of the humanities both in helping Americans to understand the experiences of service members and in assisting veterans as they return to civilian life, NEH has launched a special initiative titled Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War. This special initiative draws on the power of the humanities 1) to support advanced research in the humanities that explores war and its aftermath; 2) to promote discussion and deepened understanding of the experiences of those Americans affiliated with the armed services, whether active duty or veterans; and to support returning veterans and their families.

#### *Protecting our Cultural Heritage*

In response to the destruction of cultural heritage materials worldwide, NEH encourages applications for projects that study, document or create digital representations of lost or imperiled cultural heritage materials. Proposed projects should be based on scholarly work and follow standards and best practices. Projects must demonstrate the capacity to be sustained and must be widely accessible to the public. Learn more about Protecting our Cultural Heritage.

In addition, NEH especially encourages projects that include Native American organizations and communities as lead applicants and project partners.

## ELIGIBILITY

This program accepts applications from any U.S. two- or four-year college or university with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, including community colleges, four-year public and private colleges and universities, liberal arts colleges, research universities, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving



institutions, and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions. Individuals and foreign

## AWARD DESCRIPTION

and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

Planning Grants may be awarded up to \$35,000 for an award period of 12 months.

Implementation Grants may be awarded up to \$100,000 for an award period of 18 to 36 months.

No costs sharing is required.

## DEADLINE DESCRIPTION

Applications were to be submitted by September 30, 2020. A similar deadline is assumed annually.

## HISTORY OF FUNDING

Total Annual Funding in Recent Cycles:

- Planning: \$516,000 with an average of 16 grants award (3-year average 2018-20)
- Implementation: \$528,000 with an average of 5 grants award (3-year average 2018-20)

Recent Planning grant may be found here: <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Humanities%20Connections%20FAQs%202020.pdf>

Recent Implementation Grants may be found here:

<https://securegrants.neh.gov/publicquery/main.aspx?q=1&a=0&n=0&o=0&ot=0&k=0&f=0&s=0&cd=0&p=1&pv=320&d=0&y=0&prd=0&cov=0&prz=0&wp=0&ob=year&or=DESC>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The program does not support projects that promote stand-alone additions or revisions of single course offerings or the simple pairing of complementary courses, whether in the same or in different departments or schools.

Although this grant is open to collaborations with one or more post-secondary institutions, a single institution must serve as the applicant of record.

Grantees may not use Humanities Connections funding for

- faculty or student travel abroad;
- the development of courses for a graduate degree or non-degree program;
- textbook research or revision;
- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view;
- advocacy for a particular program of social or political action;
- support of specific public policies or legislation; or
- projects that fall outside of the humanities (including the creation or performance of art; creative writing, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and empirically based social science research or policy studies).



## CONTACT

Program Staff for Humanities Connections Grant  
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20506  
Phone: (800) 634-1121  
Email: humanitiesconnections@neh.gov

## WEB LINKS

Grants.gov Posting: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=328771>  
Application Guidance: <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Humanities%20Connections%20NOFO%202020%2020200930-AKA-AKB.pdf>  
FAQs: <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Humanities%20Connections%20FAQs%202020.pdf>  
Program Page: <https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education>

*\*Consult the program guidance by following the links provided at the above URLs. Additional relevant POCs are provided in the program guidance.*