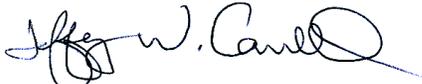




TO: Cultural Education Committee
FROM: Jeffrey Cannell 
SUBJECT: 2014-2015 Federal Budget and Legislative Proposals for
Libraries and Other Cultural Institutions

DATE: March 3, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):


SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The Office of Cultural Education and cultural institutions statewide benefit from federal programs that provide funding and increased access to information. At the January 2014 Cultural Education Committee meeting, staff briefed the committee on key federal programs that support Cultural Education and cultural institutions statewide. The committee requested recommendations for specific advocacy regarding these programs. In January 2014, President Obama signed into law an omnibus spending act that had an impact on the programs reviewed by the Cultural Education Committee in January. Staff will update the committee on the funding levels for the various programs and make recommendations regarding ongoing advocacy.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Discussion.

Proposed Handling

Staff from OCE will review various federal programs that affect OCE and cultural institutions in New York and recommend an advocacy position regarding these various programs.

Background Information

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS):

Summary: The Institute for Museum and Library Services provides grants to Libraries, Archives and Museums. The largest grant program is the Library

Services and Technology Act (LSTA), State Grant Program. The State Grant Program is a population-based grant to each state, New York will receive \$7.6 million in LSTA funds in FY2013-14. These funds support Summer Reading at New York Libraries, NOVELNY and other statewide services.

In January, President Obama signed into law appropriation bills that included a modest increase to the total budget for IMLS. This increase maintains level funding for New York under the State Grant program, despite a shortfall in New York State's maintenance of effort.

The Museum and Library Services Act, Chapter 72 of Title 20 of the U.S. Code (20 USC CHAPTER 72), which establishes the IMLS and the various grant programs, including the state grant program is due for reauthorization by Congress in 2015.

Recommended position: Maintain current level of funding for IMLS in the upcoming federal fiscal year and support reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission:

Summary: The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) provides grants to archives and historical records repositories for documentary editing and for preservation and access to records and manuscripts. Over the past 5 years, NHPRC funding of \$1.3 million has been awarded to 18 institutions around the state, including the State Archives. In January, President Obama signed into law appropriation bills that included \$4.5 million for the NHPRC. This is a reduction of \$250,000 from Federal fiscal year 2012-13.

Recommended position: Seek a restoration of NHPRC funding to 2013 appropriation levels of \$4.75 million to continue to support current programming.

National Endowment for the Humanities:

Summary: In January, President Obama signed into law appropriation bills that included \$146 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The National Endowment for the Humanities provides grants to institutions to support preservation, access, education and scholarship for cultural materials. Over the past five years, an average annually of 25 New York cultural heritage institutions, universities, and libraries have received a total of over \$5 million in NEH grant project funds.

Recommended Position: Maintain the current level of funding for the NEH in the upcoming federal fiscal year.

Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013 (FASTR):

Summary: The FASTR Act would extend the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access policy to an additional 11 federal agencies and departments; ensuring that a manuscript is preserved in a stable digital repository that permits free public access, interoperability, and long-term preservation; and require that each taxpayer-funded manuscript be made available to the public online and without cost.

If enacted, FASTR would provide the public free access to taxpayer-funded research which currently requires a fee. This will allow libraries to offer more free content to their customers and will enable New Yorkers to access research data that the Federal government has already paid for.

Recommended Position: Support passage of FASTR in 2014 (H.R. 708/S.350).

Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL):

Summary: From 2002 to 2010, *Improving Literacy through School Libraries* was the primary source of federal funding for school libraries. In recent years it has been consolidated or zero-funded. In FY2012, funding was redirected for the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)* program. *IAL* is a competitive grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Education in which half of the funds must go to low income school libraries. *IAL* is currently the primary source of federal funding for school libraries. Focusing on low income schools, these funds help many schools bring their school libraries up to standards. Funding from *IAL* ensures that more students in New York have access to high-quality school library services and gain skills to become college and career ready.

IAL was funded at \$25 million in FY 2014. This is a \$2.4 million cut from FY 2013.

Recommended Position: Seek a funding restoration for *IAL* to \$28.6 million for FY2015.