



SUPPORT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA)

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to provide no less than \$425 million in FY 2020 funding for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), including at least \$6 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the agency. *The National Archives is funded under the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.*

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Increased federal spending for the National Archives is necessary to manage, preserve, and make accessible the federal government’s records. NARA’s budget was decreased last year even as Congress has placed additional responsibilities on the agency.

NARA and NHPRC Annual Appropriations, FY 2010 to Present (in millions of dollars)

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
NARA	\$339	\$339	\$373	\$353	\$370	\$365	\$372	\$380.6	\$384.6	\$373
NHPRC	\$13	\$10	\$5	\$4.75	\$4.5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$6	\$6

ABOUT NARA AND NHPRC

Congress established the National Archives in 1934 to preserve and make accessible to the public the records of the U.S. Government. American citizens rely on access to immigration, naturalization, military, and census records held by the National Archives for many routine needs and for veterans and their families to gain access to benefits. It also serves as the nexus for the declassification of federal records, ensuring compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. NARA is also known to the public as the keeper of original copies of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. NARA now has over 40 facilities nationwide, including 14 presidential libraries.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) promotes the preservation and use of the American documentary record.

- NHPRC grants support a wide range of activities to preserve and increase access to historical records.
- The NHPRC supports publications projects of national significance, such as the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution project, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and the Papers of George Washington.
- These grants leverage state, local, institutional, foundation, and other private funding by requiring 50 percent cost sharing.

NARA’S FUNDING HAS STAGNATED WHILE DEMANDS ON IT HAVE INCREASED

- The number of documents produced by federal agencies has increased exponentially with the transition to electronic records, yet NARA today has the same number of employees it did in 1985.
- In recent years, Congress has placed additional responsibilities on the agency including the transition from the preservation and storage of paper records to electronic ones, the reduction of backlogs of records awaiting declassification, and the management of three new presidential libraries.
- Current funding levels are not adequate to accommodate public needs for accessibility and government accountability. In recent years, NARA has been forced to cut back on research hours at its facilities because of lack of funding.