

NYS CULTURE RELIES ON \$40M–\$65M OF ANNUAL FEDERAL FUNDING

Why this matters now

NYS Culture & Arts Sector enters the NYS and NYC budget season facing significant uncertainty about Federal funding.

Ongoing vulnerabilities persist for NEA, NEH, and IMLS due to current administration policies affecting agency workforces, budgets, and program criteria.

Budget disputes, grant rescissions, and administrative delays remain a factor despite recent budget allocations.

Key take-aways

FEDERAL FUNDING IS STRUCTURAL, NOT MARGINAL

- » In FY2024, **NYS 638 cultural organizations** received **\$40M** in funding from the three federal agencies.
- » Post-pandemic relief funding declined by 29% FY2019/20.

NYS IS UNIQUELY EXPOSED

- » NYS receives a large volume of NEA/NEH/IMLS grants (16% of all awards), but those grants account for only 8.7% share of total dollars.
- » This makes NYS especially vulnerable to federal retrenchment, delays, or rescissions—even when cuts are spreadout among a large number of grantees.

Where the impact lands

GEOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE

- » NYC received **75% of all federal cultural funds** in NYS (\$31M) and **77% of funded organizations**. The high density of cultural organizations diffuses potential impacts across the ecosystem.

- » In regions where awards are concentrated among a few grantees, the delay or rescission of a single grant can destabilize the area's entire cultural landscape.

Regions with only a few cultural anchors, such as the North Country, where 3 organizations account for 1% of the State's funding, or the Mohawk Valley, home to 4 grantees with a 0.45% share of funds, face a high concentration risk.

GEOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE

- » Federal funding is **top-heavy**:
 - Organizations with **budgets over \$10M** received double their share of funds, with **41% of all federal dollars**, yet accounted for **18% of recipients**.
 - Organizations **under \$1M** made up **42% of recipients** but received only **22% of funding**.

What this brief does (and does not) do

- » **Does:** Clarify the scale, distribution, and risk profile of federal cultural funding in NYS.
- » **Does not:** Validate existing funding allocations or claim impacts are evenly distributed.
- » **Purpose:** Equip the sector with shared facts to inform advocacy, planning, and public dialogue amid federal uncertainty.

Bottom line for advocates

Federal cultural funding in NYS:

- » Is embedded in everyday operations across regions and organization sizes. Creates **systemic risk in high-density areas and concentrated risk in regions with few cultural anchors**.
- » Cannot be treated as optional or symbolic funding—instability directly affects cultural capacity statewide.



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