

# STATE ARTS AGENCY LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2010 FACT SHEET

JULY 1, 2009

This fact sheet contains estimates of legislative appropriations to the nation's 56 state and jurisdictional arts councils for fiscal year 2010, which begins in July for most states. Please note that this is preliminary information. As of this writing, some states are still in legislative session, and others are expecting budget adjustments shortly after the fiscal year gets under way. For the latest information on state arts funding, contact the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#).

## THE STATE BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

**Experts predict a \$121 billion deficit for states in fiscal year 2010.** In an effort to balance their budgets, states have enacted numerous expense reductions and increased taxes and fees. Despite these measures, [state budget experts](#) project budget gaps in 46 states for fiscal year 2010, and 31 states already are forecasting gaps for fiscal year 2011. These shortfalls will have widespread effects on all areas of state spending, including the arts.

## STATE ARTS AGENCY ESTIMATES

- **Total appropriations to state arts agencies are expected to decline from \$328 million in fiscal year 2009 to around \$304 million in fiscal year 2010.** This will be a loss of \$24 million or 7.4%. However, this figure includes a new appropriation of \$21.7 million in one state, Minnesota.\* Excluding these funds, total appropriations to state arts agencies likely will decline by \$46 million, or 14.0%.
- **Thirty state arts agencies predict decreases in legislative appropriations for fiscal year 2010.** The median decrease is expected to be 19.9%. Most state arts agencies report that their cuts are proportional in size to reductions made to other government agencies.
- **Thirteen state arts agencies estimate that their appropriations will increase in fiscal year 2010.** Most of these movements are expected to be modest, with a median increase of 4.5%.
- **Thirteen state arts agencies are expecting flat funding** in fiscal year 2010.

## EFFECTS OF FUNDING REDUCTIONS

- **National per capita legislative spending on state arts agencies is expected drop to \$0.99 in fiscal year 2010.** This is only \$0.04 higher than the most recent low, in fiscal year 2004. As the nation's population continues to grow, reduced funding levels make it difficult to ensure that all communities have access to the economic, educational, civic and cultural benefits of the arts.
- **Many state arts agencies received budget cuts in fiscal year 2009, forcing them to reduce grants and services and limiting the communities that could be reached.** Also, many state arts agencies have yet to recover from this decade's earlier economic contraction. The prospect of further cuts in fiscal year 2010 will exacerbate these effects.

## ABOUT THIS DATA

\* Minnesota citizens passed a referendum that enacts a sales tax increase and dedicates a portion of those proceeds to the state arts agency, as well as to heritage and environmental agencies. This Legacy Amendment takes effect in fiscal year 2010 and will result in a new appropriation of \$21.7 million to the state arts agency.

All appropriations figures reflect estimates from state arts agencies as of May and June of 2009. These figures are preliminary and will change as states revisit budgets to adjust for shifting revenue expectations. This fact sheet excludes other resources available to state arts agencies (such as federal funding, state transfer funds and private/earned income). A survey of total state arts agency budgets will be released in early winter. For more details, contact NASAA Director of Research Angela Han, [angela.han@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:angela.han@nasaa-arts.org) or 202-347-6352 x115.

National Assembly of  
State Arts Agencies  
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