# National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

Information Services Summary
Fiscal Year 2020 (10/1/2019 to 7/20/2020)

Providing responses to member questions—often within 24 hours—is an important component of NASAA's daily work. In roughly the first three quarters of fiscal year 2020, NASAA staff fulfilled 309 information requests from state arts agencies (SAAs), partners and the public, answering questions about arts funding, the impact of the arts, or research available to support planning, evaluation, program design or policy decision making. This is a rate of almost two requests per business day. For more on the types of questions NASAA receives and can answer, see the Examples of Recent Information Requests.

During the fiscal year, NASAA members and stakeholders from the arts sector have requested help from staff on a variety of topics and issues. The word cloud below illustrates the breadth of inquiries NASAA has answered in FY2020, highlighting the words used most frequently in questions. See the Information Requests by Category chart for a deeper analysis of all the questions NASAA answered. This report also maps information requests received by state and charts them by organization type.
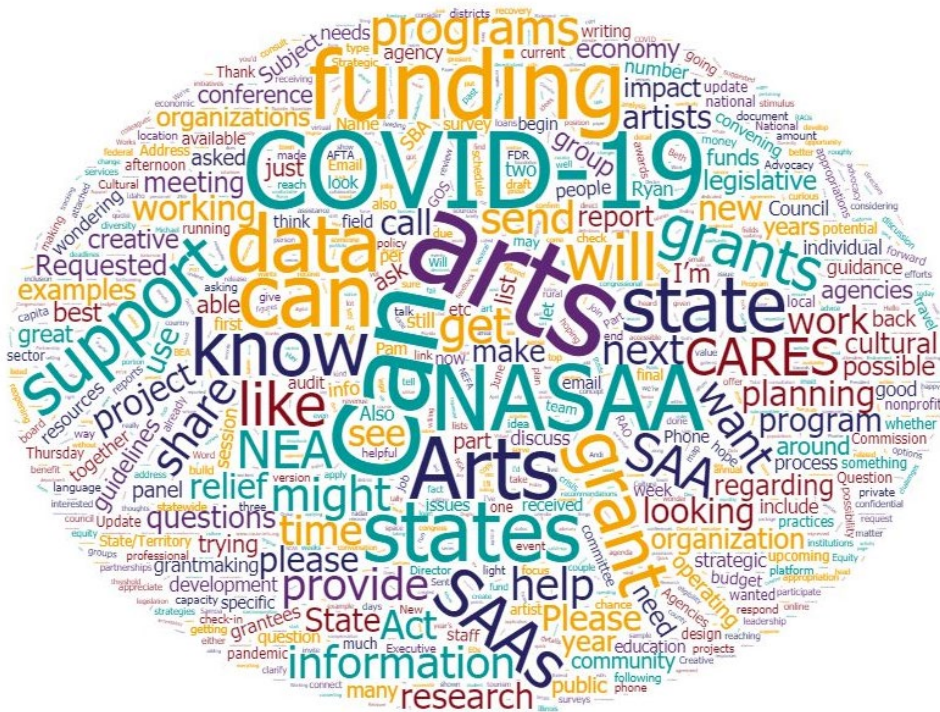
Word cloud based on questions from NASAA members logged by NASAA staff between 10/1/2019 and 7/20/2020.

In addition, NASAA provides special services: speaking at statewide conferences, facilitating council meeting discussions and conducting custom research. For more information on these services, or to request information for your agency, contact Ryan Stubbs.

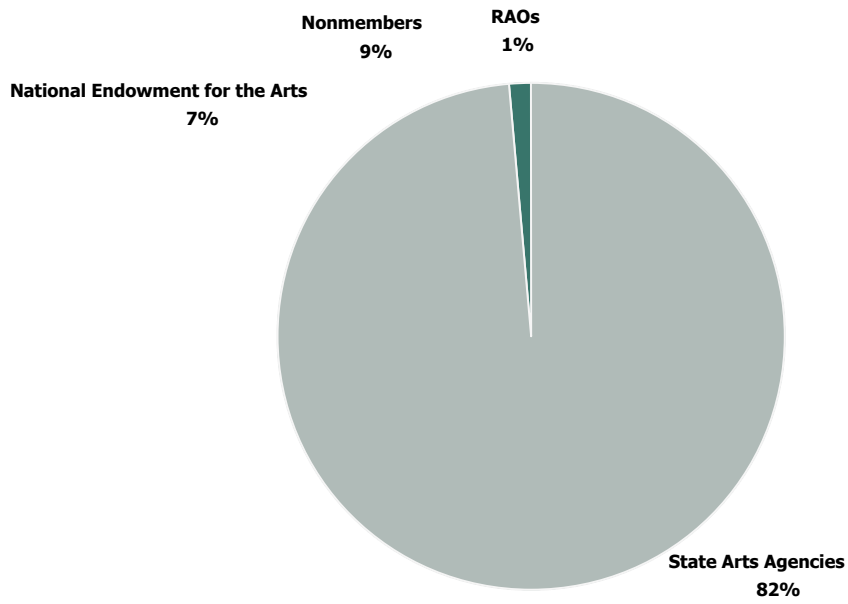# Information Requests by State, 10/1/2019 to 7/20/2020

Legend:
- 0
- 1 or 2
- 3 or 4
- 5 or more
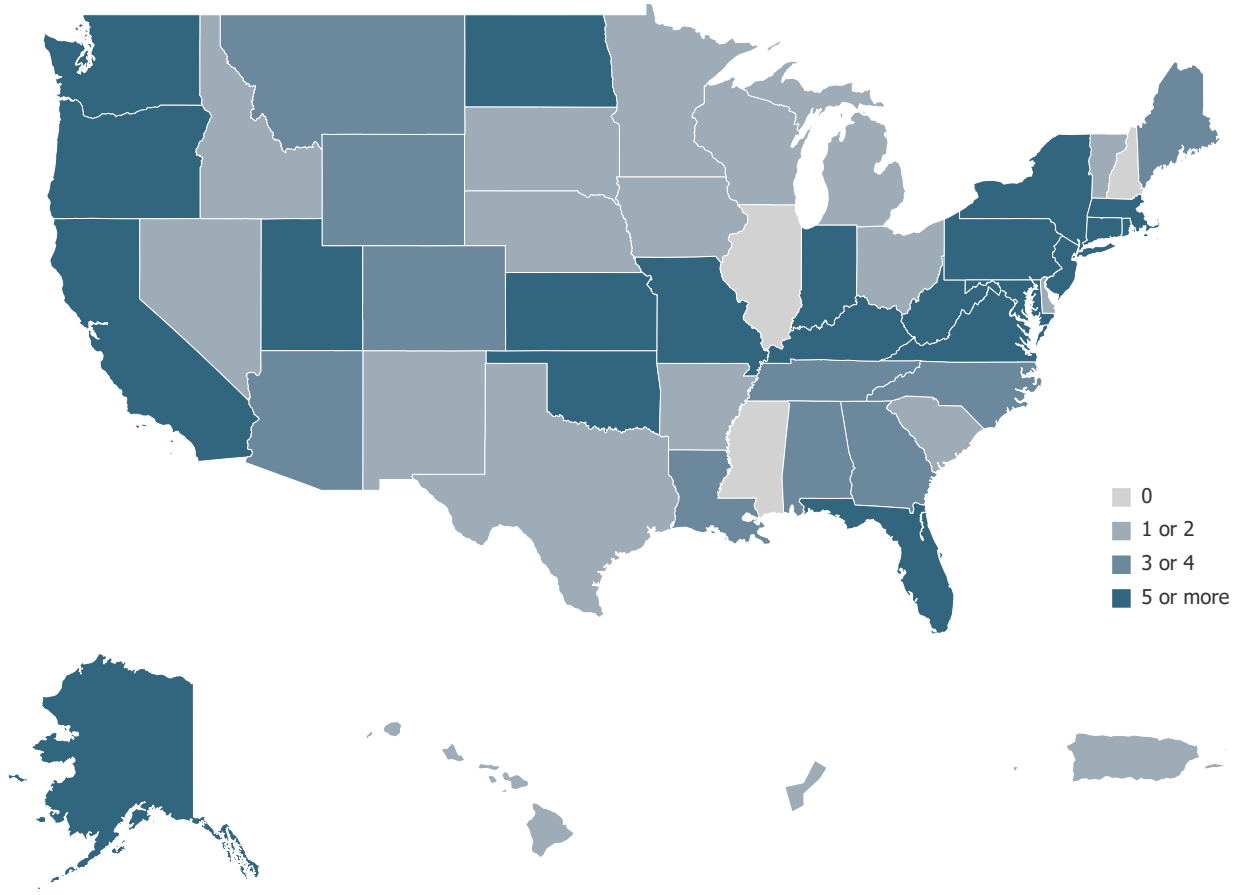
Information Requests by Category, 10/1/2019 to 7/20/2020

State Arts Agency Grant Making
50

Advocacy
45

Governance or Policy
38

Other
26

National Endowment for the Arts
25

Funding
23

Operations
18

Programs and Services
18

Planning
17

Federal Reporting
15

Evaluation
17

Communications
14

Information Requests by Organization Type, 10/1/2019 to 7/20/2020

Nonmembers
9%

RAOs
1%

National Endowment for the Arts
7%

State Arts Agencies
82%

Information Requests Related to COVID-19, 10/1/2019 to 7/20/2020

24%

76%

■ COVID-related information reuqests

■ All other information requests
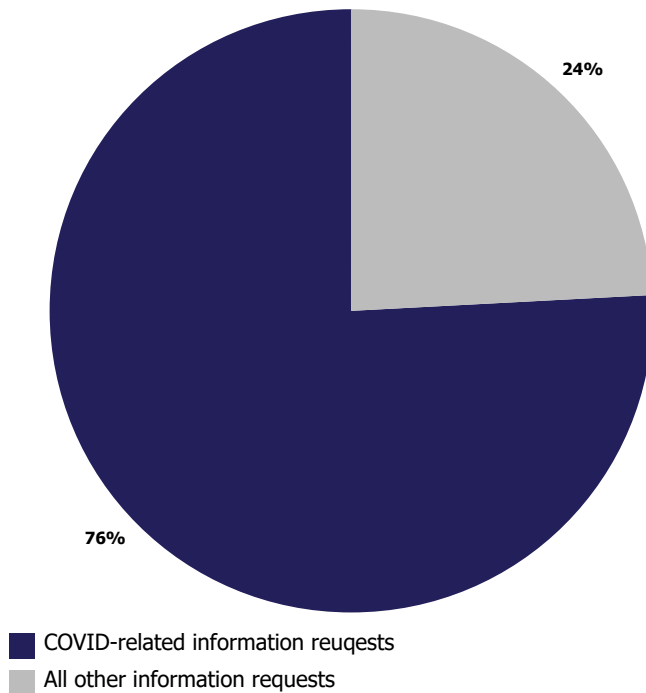
Examples of Recent Information Requests

Advocacy
- We're launching a **new advocacy effort** following the election of a new governor. Can we pick your brain?
- Our state arts agency has been slated for **elimination** in this coming legislative session. Help!
- We need help demonstrating our agency's **return on investment** to a governor who wants to curtail the role of government. Can you help?
- Can you **map our grants by congressional district?**
- Can you provide some **advocacy talking points** and sample social media posts?
- What's your feedback on our **legislative strategy** for a significant budget increase?
- I'm preparing to testify before my legislative budget committee. Can NASAA **review a draft of my legislative testimony?**
- Can you help us **workshop an appropriate public statement** regarding current events?

Funding
- What **funding and grant-making comparison resources** do you have?
- How many other SAAs have a **companion foundation or friends group** dedicated to raising additional revenue?
- Could you send examples of **dedicated arts license plate** programs? How much money do these programs raise?
- What are the state rankings for **per capita arts funding** this year? What is the national average for per capita arts funding?
- Are there SAAs with a **tax based dedicated revenue** stream?
- What are the **pros and cons of identifying alternative revenue sources** when facing legislative budget cuts?
- Can NASAA answer some questions about **legislative line items and general budget appropriations?**
- Do you have **historical data** on SAA legislative appropriations in my state?

Governance, Operations and Policy
- How many SAA executive directors are **appointed by the governor** and how many are hired by the council?
- I'm looking for some examples of how **SAA councils support diversity, equity and inclusion** initiatives of their agencies.
- Could you review this **agenda design of an upcoming council meeting?**
- What is the typical role of SAA councils in **authorizing grant awards?**
- Would you explain the relationship between an SAA council's **advisory and governance roles?**
- Our council is hiring a new executive director. Could you send us **salary data by budget and region?**
- Does NASAA have examples of **job descriptions** for a director of government relations?
- Could you share **organizational structures** of similarly sized SAAs?
- Which SAAs are connected to their **state cultural tourism office?**
- Can NASAA help with **onboarding our new executive director?**
- If our governor convenes a **state agency restructuring** task force, what kind of policy information could NASAA supply?
- Can you review our **draft percent for art legislation?**
- We are updating our **council member handbook.** Do you have any models or best practices from other SAAs that you can share?

- Please share NASAA's **diversity, equity and inclusion** policy statement.
- Is NASAA able to help **guide us through capacity building and expanding our regional representation?**

Grant Making and Nongrant Programming
- Does NASAA have examples of SAA grant programs that help arts groups **recover from disasters?**
- Please share your list of SAAs' **decentralized grant programs.**
- We're looking for a new **grant management system.** What do other SAAs use?
- How many SAAs offer a **stipend to their grant panelists?**
- Which SAAs have grant programs supporting **tribal entities?**
- We are examining issues of **equity and alignment within our major grant categories.** Can NASAA help us learn how other states approach these issues?
- Do you have statistics on **rural grant making?**
- Does NASAA have state-specific **race and economic equity** information?
- Any thoughts on how to demonstrate the **cost-effectiveness of arts and military programs,** especially those working with people with post-traumatic stress disorder?
- Can you tell me more about NASAA's resources for SAA staff that are **people of color?**
- We are looking for examples of **arts in health care** programs. Any suggestions?
- Can you **recommend experts** to speak on breaking down structural racism in grant making?
- Do you have **examples of innovative strategies to support individual artists?**
- Can you help us **reshape our grant application process** to include new ways of gathering information, such as an interview process?

National Endowment for the Arts
- What are the **eligibility criteria for National Endowment for the Arts Partnership Agreement** funding? If we change structure, could we lose our federal support?
- Can you clarify **Arts Endowment matching requirements?** My state legislature wants to know how our federal funding would be impacted if it reduces its investment in the arts.
- When is this year's **National Endowment for the Arts Partnership Agreement panel review?**
- I have some questions regarding our **Arts Endowment grantee audit.**
- How will the **federal government shutdown** affect my agency?
- Do you have examples of how **relief funding from the Arts Endowment** worked during the last major stimulus package?
- Can you help us respond to an **information request from the Arts Endowment?**

Planning, Evaluation and Research
- Could you share **examples of other SAAs' strategic plans?**
- We may be facing a **legislative audit.** Have other states gone through this? What kind of data can NASAA provide?
- What is the optimal size, composition and role of a **strategic planning committee?**
- Do you have any recommendations about **strategic planning consultants?**
- We're embarking on a new strategic planning process. What **planning facilitation services** could NASAA provide?
- We need help designing a **strategic planning survey.**
- We're interested in conducting a **regional study of the impact of the arts.**
- Can you provide more **details on data behind the Creative Economy State Profiles?** Can we discuss the **economic impact of the creative sector** in more detail?
- How do other states **track the impact of their creative placemaking programs**?

- Are there **examples of other states reshaping their education policy** to include the arts?
- Can you provide information on the **demographic composition** of the creative economy?
- Can you provide feedback on **our arts in health survey and implementation time line?**

FDR (Final Descriptive Report) Requirements

- I've been tasked with preparing FDRs. Can you provide some **tools and tips for preparing FDRs?**
- How do "Project Activity Locations" apply to Poetry Out Loud and our apprenticeship program?
- Please send me the latest edition of the **Quick and Easy Guide to Field Definitions and Data Coding.**
- How should I code a grant funding **student transportation to cultural events?**
- How do I account for **nongrant programs** in my FDR?
- Should I report **activity locations** separately?
- How do we report awards that involve **fiscal agents?**
- Has COVID-19 affected **FDR requirements or deadlines?**

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Can you send examples of surveys other states are using to **measure the impact of COVID-19?**
- We want to create a **relief program for artists.** Do you have examples from other states that have created similar programs?
- What type of **emergency funding** to organizations and/or individuals are other states offering?
- How are states **repurposing their current grants** to accommodate the new reality of the pandemic?
- How do we adjust to the **new travel restrictions and the loss of in-person meetings?**
- Do you have **guidelines for safely reopening organizations?**