

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MUSEUM GRANTS

The Institute for Museum and Library Services' African American History and Culture (AAHC) grant program provides targeted capacity-building support for African American museums.

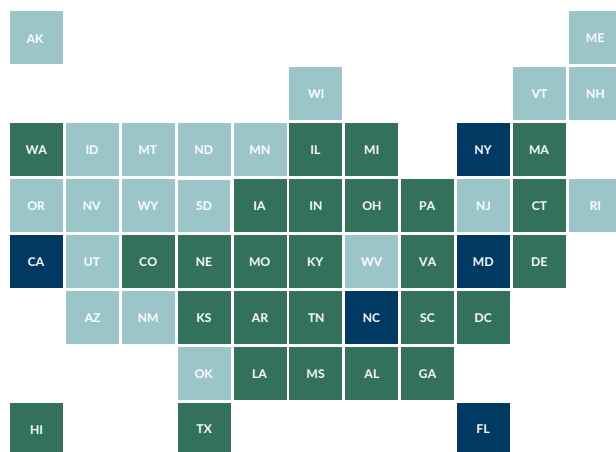
The AAHC grant program was created by an act of Congress in 2003 (20 USC 80r-5), the same act that created the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC.

Since issuing its first grants in 2006, the AAHC program has supported a range of activities to advance professional development, build organizational capacity, and increase public access to collections. In 2020, the Urban Institute conducted the first retrospective evaluation of the AAHC program. The facts and figures presented here provide a snapshot of the program and impact findings from the evaluation.

REACH

Grants have been made to **110 organizations** across **31 states**...

0 Grantees 1-4 Grantees 5 or more Grantees



GRANTS

Over the program's 15-year history, the AAHC program has awarded...

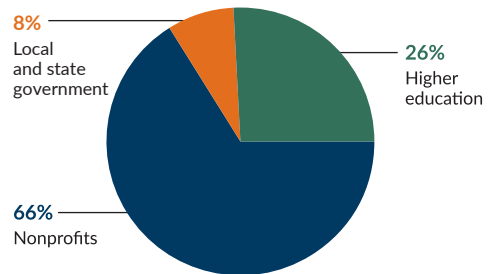


215 grants, collectively worth **\$22.5 million** and unlocking approximately **\$25 million** in matching cost shares

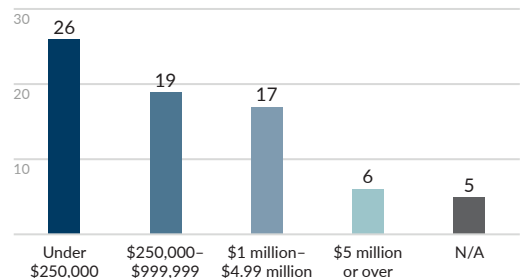


Grant sizes range from \$5,000 to \$250,000 with an average award around \$105,000.

Grantees by Organization Type



Grantees by Organization Size



PROGRAM IMPACT

The Urban Institute's evaluation found evidence that the AAHC program **nurtures, sustains, and expands** the reach and capacity of grantees.



of large nonprofit grantees reported that their AAHC grant helped them **improve professional capacity and systems**



of small nonprofit grantees reported **deepened audience engagement** as a result of grant-funded work



of small nonprofit grantees reported that the AAHC award improved their organization's ability to **sustain work beyond the grant period**



AAHC grantees are financially resilient: no nonprofit grantees "disappeared" from IRS records over the course of the AAHC program; by contrast, among small nonprofits, 28 percent of those that applied but never received funding and 17 percent of those that never applied, "disappeared" from IRS data.



38 grantees digitized collections, of which 50% were small nonprofits and 21% were HBCUs. Grantees interviewed reported this investment helped them expand their reach during COVID-19.

FUNDED PROJECTS

The most commonly funded project activities:



COMMUNITY VISIBILITY



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



ATTRACTING NEW STAFF

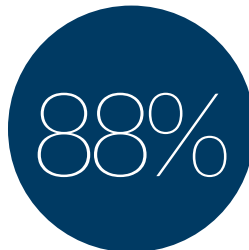


ENHANCING CARE OF COLLECTIONS

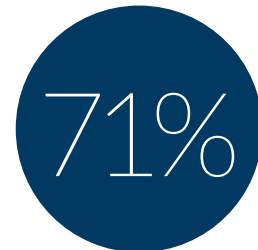


STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS

GRANTEE IMPACT



of grantees used the AAHC grant to attract additional funding or plan to in the future



of grantees would not have been able to complete their project without the AAHC grant



"I just saw that once we got IMLS, all these foundations that we had approached for years were finally like, 'Okay we'll take a risk on you.' So, it's enabled us to rapidly expand our program and our reach in a way that we wouldn't have if we did not receive IMLS funding."

AAHC GRANTEE

DOWNLOAD THE FULL EVALUATION REPORT AT www.ims.gov/publications