

UPDATED Library Trustees Statement on NEH Grant

We have an update on the status of the \$655,000 grant that the library project was awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in April 2022. As reported in the media, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has been working to cancel funding like ours - grants that had been duly appropriated by Congress and awarded by various agencies but not yet disbursed.

We had hoped that our grant would be unaffected. We have received \$164,000 of the awarded funding. On April 3rd, we had submitted a request to NEH to disburse the remaining \$491,000. We have since learned that no action was ever taken by the agency on that request.

On April 29th, we received a termination notice from NEH cancelling the remainder of the grant effective immediately. The April 3rd request assumed that the grant would remain in place through project completion. The NEH termination guidance only allows for reimbursement of 20% (because of the 4:1 match requirement) of all in-scope work completed through 4/29/2025. Based on our understanding of the notice, we expect to be able to claim at least an additional \$80K.

We have reached out to our representatives in DC, and to NH Governor Kelly Ayotte, to request their assistance in restoring the funding.

We are evaluating our options should the grant not be restored prior to the project's fall completion. Since the grant funding that is at risk represents less than 7% of the total cost, the project will still be completed. As the project progresses toward completion, we will review all available funding to determine whether to defer some project aspects that won't impede our ability to open and operate the facility, pending future fundraising.

If you'd like to help, you can call or email our congressional delegation to let them know that you support our request for assistance. It will be helpful if you note that you're calling/writing about NEH grant CHA-286624-24.

- Jeanne Shaheen Phone: 603-647-7500
<https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/contact/contact-jeanne>
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- Maggie Hassan Phone: 603-622-2204
<https://www.hassan.senate.gov/contact/email>
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- Maggie Goodlander Phone: 603-226-1002
<https://goodlander.house.gov/contact/email-me>
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- Kelly Ayotte Phone: 603-271-2121 https://new-hampshire.my.salesforce-sites.com/support/GOV_Opinion

If you have specific questions, please email librarytrustees@montvernonnh.us.