

REGIONAL PROJECTS: PRELIMINARY DIMENSIONS

Our thinking about the Regional Projects' Program, as these projects will relate to the state-based program, has now progressed to the point where we feel comfortable in presenting some basic approaches to the program. We feel some sense of urgency to move this program off center, both because we are getting some responses from the field to the program announcement and because we consider the program an important element in the success of the state-based program.

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The regional program should be in accord/and in fact reinforce the goals of the state-based program; it should bring professional humanists and their disciplines into contact with contemporary public problems, to make the adult public more aware of the distinct role humanists can play in giving perspective to these problems, and where possible, provide a beginning base for subsequent state-based activity.

The regional projects have to be considered in the light of (a) whether a state-based group is functioning; and (b) whether no state-based group is in operation. (For Fy '72 purposes, we are not including a state group in the program design phase as a functioning state-based group.)

General Objectives

The regional projects' effort for Fy '72 should:

1. Provide public program funds for public activities in the humanities in the 43 states which, in Fy '72 will not have a fully operational state-based program.
2. Provide quality models of exemplary public activities in the humanities centered on public problems.
3. Serve as catalytic funds providing seed money for essential public activities in the humanities that otherwise would not be conducted.
4. Generate metropolitan-based projects utilizing institutions of higher education (including community colleges), county and city library systems, county and city historical societies, educational TV, and other groups and organizations with extensive resources to mount programs in the humanities that deal with metropolitanwide problems.
5. Provide the impetus through public activities in the humanities for establishing a preliminary pool of resources for subsequent state-based, statewide activities.
6. Allow us to initiate some preliminary "probes" into potential projects that would cross state boundaries for multiple-state efforts.