

SOME BACKGROUND ON THE STATE-BASED PROGRAM

Program

The state-based program operates by making grants to volunteer citizens groups in each state which, in turn, regrant funds to non-profit groups and organizations in their state in support of public programs on issues of public policy. Regrant projects, though they differ in format, have the basic intent of bringing together scholars in the humanities and the general adult public to engage in discussions of issues of policy that are of major interest to the citizens of the state. The program began with six states in 1971 and has since grown to include all fifty states and Puerto Rico.

Membership

The volunteer committees are made up of roughly equal numbers of scholars in the humanities, administrators of educational and cultural institutions, and members of the general public. Committees average 18 members and meet on an average of five times a year. A chairman is elected from the membership and serves as "project director." The committee's responsibilities include development of all policy for the state program and evaluation of all proposals that come to the committee. More than 850 individuals served on state-based committees in 1975. Attached are charts which give a general sense of the broad representation the committees have achieved.

Staff

Each state committee has a full-time, paid executive director and office staff (at least one secretary). Executive directors are responsible for program development activities (i.e., activities designed to generate proposals), grant management, and the maintenance of overall program coherence.

Regrants

The regrants involve a variety of formats. A program may last an evening or continue periodically for several weeks or months. The programs can be forums, film presentations, radio and television productions, panel discussions, workshops. 95% of the programs involve discussion with the adult audience participating. The committees do not look favorably on grants that involve a passive audience. State committee standards require that funded discussions of policy issues avoid advocacy, bias, or dogmatic assertion. Regrant programs take place in civic and community centers, churches, synagogues, public auditoriums, and educational facilities.