

2026 State Arts Agency Grant Making Facts

Social Vulnerability: FY2020-2024

State Arts Agency Grant Making

State arts agencies (SAAs) serve constituents through numerous grants that bolster economic activity, individual artistry, educational success, community development, social engagement, well-being and quality of life. This fact sheet maps SAA grant making over a recent five-year period across census tracts and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index data.

What Is Social Vulnerability?

Social Vulnerability measures the potential negative effects of disasters, human suffering and economic distress on different census tracts in the United States. Data are drawn from the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), which uses 16 different U.S. Census Department variables examining socioeconomic factors, household characteristics, race and ethnic information, access to transportation and other demographic data. In addition to disaster readiness, the SVI helps planners and social scientists understand community needs, risk susceptibility and public health.

Why Examine Social Vulnerability?

State arts agencies hold a mandate to facilitate public access to arts and culture for all constituents. Examining how grants are distributed across communities with high levels of vulnerability provides a lens through which state arts agencies can understand who has historically received grants and where the greatest needs are present.

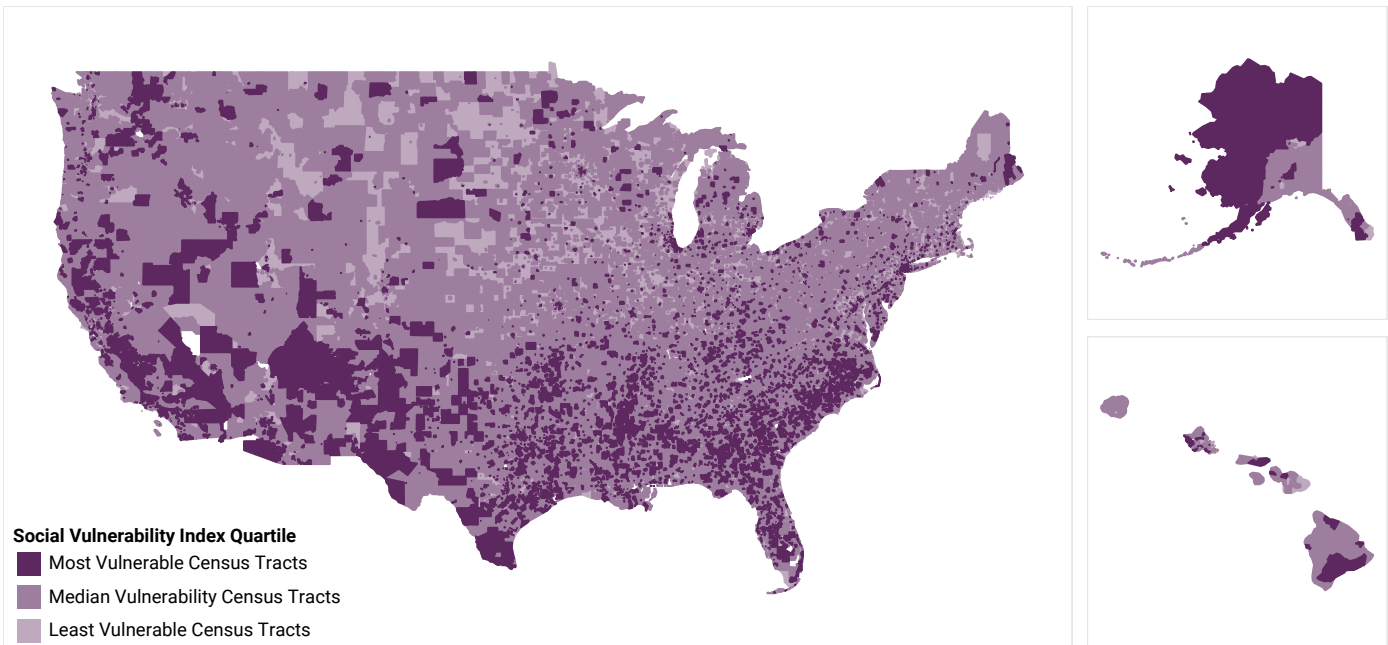
For this analysis, NASAA used geospatial software to identify the number of grants, total grant dollars, median award sizes and unique communities served across the 25% least vulnerable, the 50% median vulnerability and the 25% most vulnerable census tracts.

State Arts Agency Grants Distribution by Census Tract SVI Data

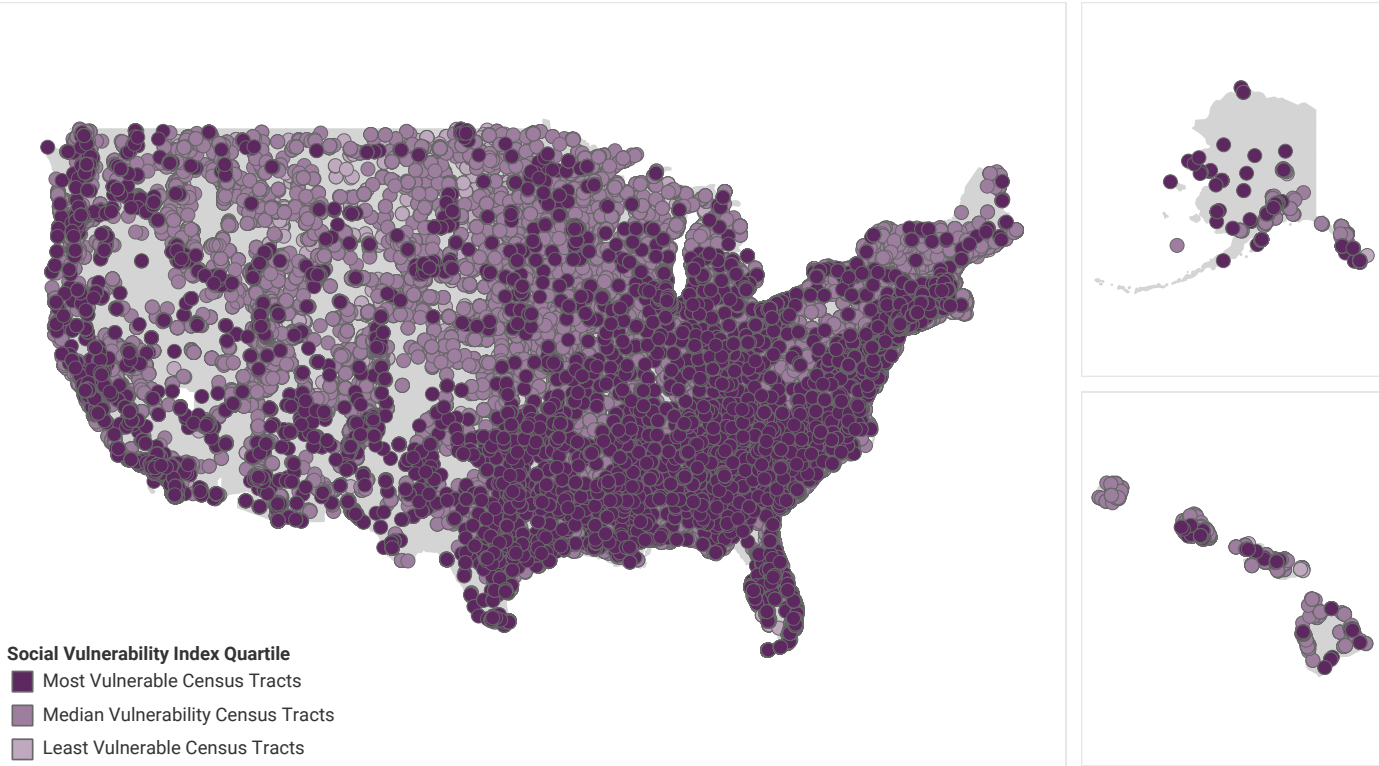
	Least Vulnerable Census Tracts	Median Vulnerability Census Tracts	Most Vulnerable Census Tracts
Total Dollars Awarded	\$357,449,477	\$882,294,092	\$425,154,397
Percentage of All Grant Dollars	21.5%	53.0%	25.5%
Number of Grants Awarded	26,581	64,167	30,360
Share of All SAA Grants	21.9%	53.0%	25.1%
Median Award Size	\$4,600	\$5,000	\$5,000
Percentage of Total Population	25.4%	49.9%	24.7%
Communities Served	9,340	19,203	10,454

Total Population includes all population in all census tracts except null SVI areas. Communities Served is based on unique census tracts receiving grants or grant locations.

Census Tracts by Social Vulnerability Quartile

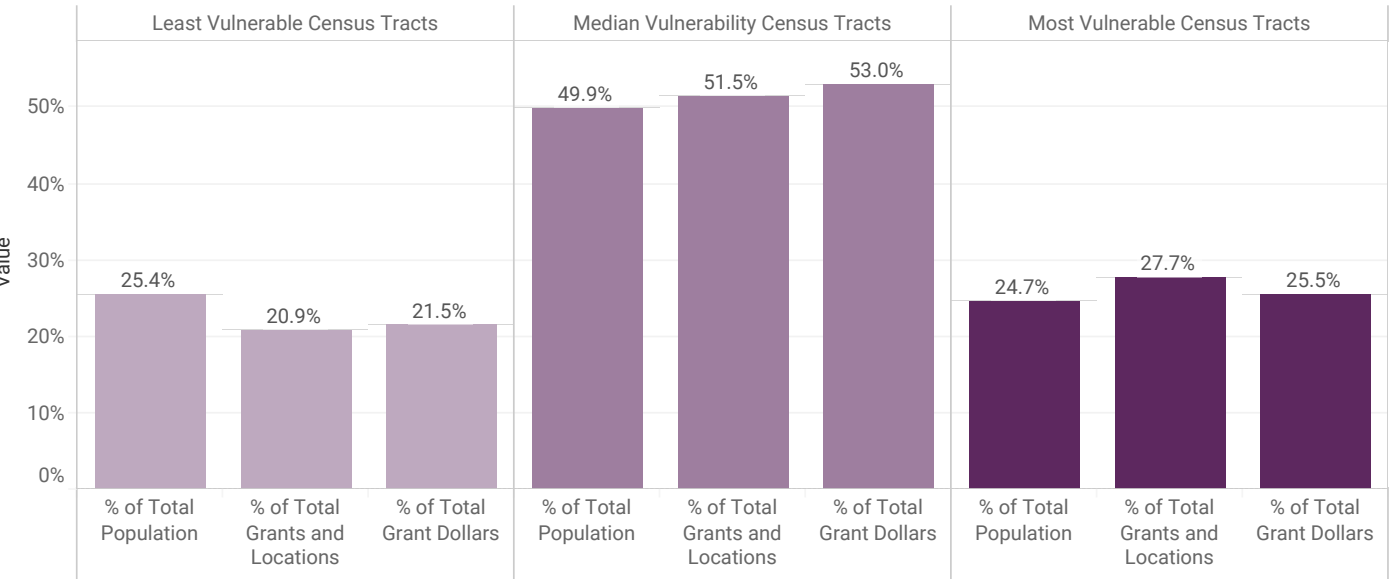


State Arts Agency Grants by Census Tract Social Vulnerability Quartile



Grants by Census Tract Social Vulnerability Quartile

The graph below shows the percentage of SAA awards and dollars located in each of the three census tract quartiles. The share of total population is also presented. The results indicate that the number of awards and total grant dollars closely mirror the distribution of population.



The report draws on data from state arts agencies' Final Descriptive Reports of grant-making activity submitted annually to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and NASAA. NASAA's collection of grant-making statistics is supported in part through a cooperative agreement with the NEA. Percents may not add to 100% due to null data or visualization restrictions. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352, email nasaa@nasaa-arts.org or visit <https://nasaa-arts.org>. For more information on the Social Vulnerability Index, visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>