

Holocaust and Genocide Education

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$750,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$750,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the office of the superintendent of public instruction to contract with a nonprofit organization that supports Washington teachers in implementing lessons on the Holocaust for the expansion of comprehensive Holocaust and genocide education.

Purpose

Funding supports continued implementation of SSB 5612 (2019 Session) which strongly encourages every public middle, junior high, and high school to include in its curriculum instruction on the events of the period in modern world history (1933– 1945) known as the Holocaust. It also supports resources to teach about other forms of genocide. The studying of this subject's material and other crimes against humanity is intended to examine the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and intolerance, prepare students to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic democracy and be a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples never again to permit such occurrences.

Description of Services Provided

The Holocaust Center for Humanity (HCFH) was contracted over a two-year period from 2023 to 2025. HCFH developed best practices and guidelines for high quality instruction of the Holocaust and other forms of genocide and supported schools and teachers in training and implementation. During 2023–24 school year, HCFH:

- Provided 51 professional development sessions for educators and continued to develop instructional materials for the classroom.
- Held the "Art of Remembering Student Art Contest" in which 156 students participated.
- Created the Educators for Change teacher advisory board to build the capacity of teacher leaders to promote Holocaust and genocide education which met seven times during the 2023–24 school year.
- Created three different satellite student leadership boards across Washington state, representing 36 schools.
- Formed a consortium, which consisted of educators, members of OSPI, and HCFH staff that met three times during the 2023–24 school year. The consortium provided feedback and advice on next steps to support educators across Washington.
- Distributed Holocaust and genocide education resources statewide to districts, schools and individual educators.



Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

The legislation designated OSPI, along with an expert Washington nonprofit organization that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, to create best practices and guidelines for high quality instruction and encourage and support middle school, junior high school, and high school teachers in implementing these best practices and guidelines. OSPI selected the Holocaust Center for Humanity as the expert nonprofit, having been identified through previous successful work with OSPI.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of School Districts | 131 |
| Number of Schools | 414 |
| Number of Students | 26,764 |
| Number of Educators | 1,792 |
| Other | Web Users: 136,701 |

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

| Fiscal Year | Amount Funded | Actual Expenditures |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2024 | \$750,000 | \$745,825 |

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

| Fiscal Year | Number of Beneficiaries |
|--------------------|--|
| 2024 | Districts: 131, Schools: 414, Students: 26,764, Educators: 1,792, Web Users: 136,701 |

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

N/A

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

The Holocaust Center for Humanity more than doubled its reach from 717 Washington state public school teachers in 2021–22 to 1,792 Washington state public school teachers in 2023–24. HCFH reports these findings from surveys, attendance records, and anecdotal evidence, which highlight the significant impact of their educational programs. Students benefited greatly from HCFH's programs and resources:

- 95% reported a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and its relevance.

- 78% indicated improved attitudes toward diversity and inclusion.
- 82% reported feeling more informed about historical events and moral responsibilities.
- 70% showed an increased commitment to standing up against discrimination.

Teachers also benefited from the HCH's professional development programs:

- 90% reported increased confidence in teaching Holocaust and genocide-related topics.
- 88% reported feeling better equipped with resources.
- 83% reported observing improved classroom engagement.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

The Holocaust Center for Humanity faces several major challenges. HCFH reported that it was difficult to secure time with social studies and English language arts teachers. While HCFH has made strides in creating accessible resources such as shorter, accessible “plug and play” lessons that can be effectuated within one or two class sessions, expanding Spanish-language teaching trunks, developing Braille materials and more language translation will require additional funding and logistical planning. This will be especially important to reach rural communities.

Future Opportunities

While the HCFH has significantly expanded its reach by more than doubling our impact in the FY 2023–25 funding cycle, there remains considerable potential for growth, especially in underserved and rural areas where access to Holocaust education is limited. The HCFH has identified 35 rural and Tribal school districts currently without access to our programs, and with FY 2025–27 funding, they aim to reach these districts through targeted outreach efforts and in-person training. Additional funding will also enable them to expand accessibility by translating more of our educational programs into Spanish, including museum field trip materials and art contest material, as well as developing Braille resources such as teaching trunk materials and museum placards. These efforts will help ensure that programming reaches a wider and more diverse audience. Furthermore, ongoing efforts to collect long-term data on student perspectives regarding prejudice, hate speech, and civic responsibility will yield valuable insights and recommendations for improvements, ultimately enhancing the lasting impact of the HCFH’s work.

Other Relevant Information

None.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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