

**National Endowment for the Humanities
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
Updated Status Report July 2008**

1. FOIA Improvement Plan area to which this deficient milestone relates.

FOIA Request Processing Methods

2. Deficient milestone and the original target date from the FOIA Improvement Plan.

To allow FOIA requestors to choose the format by which requested records are provided by amending the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) FOIA regulations. The original target date from the FOIA Improvement Plan stated that the new regulations would be finalized and published in the Federal Register by August 1, 2007.

3. Steps taken to correct the deficiency and the dates by which the steps were completed.

As set forth in the NEH FOIA Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007 (*Report*), NEH provided that it would address the deficiency by establishing new and realistic steps for completing the milestone. Among the remedial steps to be taken by the agency, NEH stated that it would complete a revision of its joint FOIA regulations with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and circulate the draft to these agencies by April 1, 2008, for review and feedback. On March 28, 2008, NEH provided a draft version of the joint FOIA regulations to NEA and IMLS, and is currently waiting for their comments and input on the draft joint FOIA regulations.

4. Future remedial steps and the dates by which the steps will be completed.

NEH will continue to adhere to the remedial steps provided in the *Report*. Upon receiving feedback and concurrence from the other two agencies on the draft joint FOIA regulations, NEH will provide the Department of Justice (DOJ) with the draft FOIA regulations for review and comments. After receiving and incorporating any comments from DOJ, NEH will continue to work with NEA and IMLS to finalize and publish the new regulations in the Federal Register. NEH is hopeful that it will make significant progress in accomplishing this milestone by December 31, 2008.