



CARES GRANTS

A SPECIAL GRANT FOR COVID-19 RELIEF

Frequently Asked Questions

Who's providing funding for the Indiana Humanities CARES Grants?

As part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed by Congress and signed into law in late March 2020, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) received \$75 million for emergency relief efforts. The NEH has in turn allotted a significant portion of those funds to its network of nonprofit state humanities councils, including Indiana Humanities, for further distribution across their regions.

Who's eligible to receive Indiana Humanities CARES Grants?

The CARES Grants are meant to provide operating support to organizations that focus on providing humanities programming to the public and that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Eligible organizations include:

- Libraries and archives
- Historical societies/heritage groups
- Museums that focus on humanities subjects
- Historical homes and sites
- Other nonprofits whose core mission centers on developing and implementing humanities programming

What are the humanities/what does it mean to provide public humanities programming?

When defining the humanities, we use [guidelines provided by the NEH](#). According to the NEH, the humanities include activities in the following disciplines:

- Literature
- Language
- Linguistics
- History
- Philosophy
- Archaeology
- Comparative religion
- Jurisprudence
- Ethics
- The theory, history and criticism of the arts
- Social sciences that have humanistic content and/or employ humanistic methods

Organizations that provide programs to the public in the above areas as the core part of their mission are eligible to apply for this funding.

Are arts groups eligible?

Previously, we have awarded project-based funding to arts organizations to develop and implement humanities-related programming. However, the funds provided to us from the National Endowment for the Humanities are designated specifically for humanities organizations, and because we're granting them for operating support, the core focus of the organization's mission must be to provide public humanities programming. Therefore, we cannot fund organizations whose main mission falls outside of the humanities. According to the NEH this includes organizations whose mission centers on the creation or performance of art; creative writing; autobiographies; memoirs; and creative nonfiction. If you're an arts organization, we recommend that you contact the [Indiana Arts Commission](#) regarding CARES Act support.

Why aren't colleges and universities and affiliated centers/institutes eligible?

The CARES Act has allocated \$14 billion to support colleges and universities, including approximately \$262 million in Indiana. While colleges and universities are some of our most important humanities partners, our goal is to provide our pool of funds to humanities organizations across the state that aren't already receiving significant CARES Act funding.

Our organization has never worked with Indiana Humanities before; does that mean we can't apply?

We welcome new applicants for this funding, even if they haven't received support from us in the past.

We see that there are different levels of award sizes. How do you determine what size of award we're eligible for?

We have created four levels of funding based on annual budgets. On the application we'll ask you to provide the average of your organization's operating budget over the last three fiscal years, and we'll use that average to determine your funding category.

What are the types of documents we can upload to demonstrate negative impact on our organization?

The following are just some of the items you could provide to assist the review committee in assessing the impact:

- A list of canceled programs and expected income estimates from those programs
- Records of average monthly attendance and admission fees
- Examples of monthly operating budgets

If our organization receives loans from the SBA and PPP programs, or if we apply for funding from other sources, will that hurt our chances of receiving this grant?

It will not, although we'll ask you to list on the application other organizations to which you're applying for funding. This will help us to better understand your need and some of the steps you're taking in response to the crisis.

Are there other relief funding opportunities for humanities organizations that we should be aware of?

There are a number of opportunities. One that we note in particular is the NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations program, which provides grants of up to \$300,000 to sustain humanities organizations and preserve jobs in the cultural sector. You can find more information at the [NEH's website](#).

If our organization receives a grant, what can we use the funds for?

CARES Grant funds are intended to provide assistance with operating costs, including but not limited to rent/mortgage payments, payroll, utility bills and other payments that affect the viability of the organization.

Are there activities that we can't use the funds for?

Yes. The NEH prohibits the use of federal funds for activities that promote political and/or religious viewpoints, activities that support specific public policies or legislation, lobbying, land purchases, construction/renovation, food/beverage purchases, fundraising and more. See the grant guidelines for a more in-depth list of prohibited activities.

Can we apply to receive an Indiana Humanities CARES Grant to support upcoming programs?

Indiana Humanities has designated CARES Grant funds for general operating support. If you're seeking funds specifically to develop and implement programming (exhibitions, speakers, reading/discussion programs, etc.), you should apply for one of our programming grants, which we continue to award during the COVID-19 crisis. You can learn more on the [grants page on our website](#).

How will you make decisions on who receives funding?

We expect that demand for the CARES Grants will be high and that we'll have to make difficult decisions when making awards. To assist our reviewers, we have created a scoring rubric, which you can access on the [Indiana Humanities CARES Grants webpage](#).

When will we know if we receive a grant?

If you apply by the May 8 deadline, we'll notify you by May 22.

What sort of paperwork will we need to fill out if we receive a grant?

If you receive a grant, you'll need to sign and return a grant agreement; you must provide a DUNS number on the agreement. If you don't have a DUNS number, you can easily apply for one, free of charge, [online](#). We'll also ask you to write letters to your U.S. representative and senators, informing them of the grant and thanking them for supporting CARES Act funding to the NEH. You'll need to send copies of the letters with your signed agreement.

Will we need to do any reporting? What will that look like?

We'll ask you to complete a final report this fall. While we're still determining the details that you'll need to provide, expect to include a narrative describing the impact of these funds on your organization as well as updated budget information.

Whom should we contact if we need help in determining eligibility or filling out the application?

Review the grant guidelines, then reach out to an Indiana Humanities staff member with your questions. Because we're working remotely, we ask that you email us with your query—but include your phone number in your message in case we need to call you.

- Organizations with annual budgets less than \$1 million should contact:
George Hanlin, Director of Grants
ghanlin@indianahumanities.org
- Organizations with annual budgets of \$1 million or more should contact:
Megan Telligman, Program Manager
mtelligman@indianahumanities.org