



COVID-19 Cultural Relief Guidelines

The Vermont COVID-19 Cultural Relief Grant Program is a partnership between the Vermont Arts Council and Vermont Humanities to provide rapid-response funding to arts and humanities organizations facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for this program is provided primarily from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

We are working together to maximize the impact of relief funding for Vermont's arts and humanities organizations. We are committed to equitable grantmaking and will consider geographic diversity and the ability to reach underrepresented communities in our funding decisions.

Who May Apply

Arts and/or humanities organizations that are incorporated in the state of Vermont with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, that comply with federal and state legal requirements, and are experiencing hardship due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may apply. Groups without tax-exempt status may apply using a fiscal agent.

Hardship includes, but is not limited to:

- risk of permanent closure
- loss of significant revenue
- loss of paid staff
- loss of venue or workspace

As required by federal guidelines, organizations (or the fiscal agent, if applicable) must have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. While the number is not required when you apply, we cannot disperse funds without this registration. DUNS numbers are easy to obtain; visit the [Obtain a DUNS Number page on the Grants.gov website](#) for guidance.

Vermont nonprofit organizations that provide arts and humanities programming, but are not strictly cultural organizations, may be eligible. Please [contact us](#) for guidance.

This grant program is not open to:

- Individuals
- Religious, political, or advocacy organizations
- Government agencies
- Pre-K through Grade 12 schools
- Universities, colleges, and academic departments

Note: Some organizations may also be eligible to apply for CARES Act funding directly from the NEA or NEH. Those organizations can also apply to this program, but we may defer a decision on the grant until NEA/NEH award decisions are announced. Please [contact us](#) with any questions about your organization's eligibility before applying.

Special Consideration

Organizations serving and led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the arts and humanities are encouraged to apply. These groups include:

- people of color or indigenous people
- people who identify as LGBTQ+
- people who live in rural areas
- people with disabilities
- people who identify as immigrants or refugees
- people whose first (or only) language is not English

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

Grant Award

Grant awards are based on organization size:

- annual operating budget up to \$200,000: \$5,000 grant
- annual operating budget between \$200,000 and \$750,000: \$7,500 grant
- annual operating budget larger than \$750,000: \$10,000 grant

Awards may be made by the Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Humanities, or both.

Vermont Humanities grant awards may be used for the following purposes:

- general operating support
- humanities programming
- to pay fees to humanities scholars and/or other individuals participating in humanities programming

Vermont Arts Council grant awards may be used for the following purposes:

- salaries
- to pay fees for artists and other contracted personnel
- facilities' costs, such as rent and utilities

These grants do not require a match.

Grant Review Process

Applications will be reviewed regularly by an outside peer review panel until funding is exhausted. Applications should be submitted by May 31. Applicants will receive a decision or request for additional information within 2-4 weeks of submission.

We anticipate a high volume of applications that will exceed the available funds, though we will continue to work with our congressional delegation as they advocate for more funding.

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated need rather than a polished application. With these limited funds, we seek to fund a diverse range of organizations of different disciplines, geographic locations, and backgrounds.

Awards will be released upon receipt of a signed contract. A brief final report will be required.

Questions?

Our staff is here to help! Inquiries about the Vermont COVID-19 Cultural Relief Grant Program can be made by sending an email to vtcovidculturere relief@gmail.com.

Inquiries about using the online application system can be made by sending an email to [Meredith Bell](#) or by calling (802) 828-3292. We will respond to your voicemail within one business day.