Wyoming Cultural CARES Grants Guidelines

Updated May 15, 2020

Purpose:
Wyoming Cultural CARES grants are designed to ensure cultural organizations can continue to provide opportunities for our state’s diverse communities to access and engage with public history, cultural heritage, and civic learning during this unprecedented time and in the future. Funding can be used for salary support and operations support. No match is required for these grants. These are rapid-response grants, with the application process opening on Friday, May 8; all applications received by noon on Friday, May 15, will be considered in the first review. Notification of awards will be within seven days (no later than May 22). This rolling application process will remain open only while funding remains, with weekly deadlines at noon on Friday of each week with a seven-day notification.

Grants between $5,000 to $15,000 will be made to Wyoming cultural organizations that provide humanities programming and are facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the availability of funds and expected need, Wyoming Humanities has implemented caps on general operating support requests. The caps are related to the nonprofit’s annual operating budget.

Please note the request caps:
- Annual Operating Budget of $0 – $50,000 = Request Cap of $5,000
- Annual Operating Budget of $50,000 – $250,000 = Request Cap of $10,000
- Annual Operating Budget of $250,000+ = Request Cap of $15,000

Eligibility:
Museums, libraries, historic sites, preservation & historical societies, and community and cultural organizations with a significant humanities focus on the values advanced by Wyoming Humanities are eligible: enhancing the creative economy; engaging communities to improve quality of life; raising cultural awareness to expand the Wyoming Narrative; promoting civics and democracy; fostering critical thinking and lifelong learning.

- Your organization must have tax-exempt status. Tax-exempt organizations that would like to apply through a tax-exempt fiscal sponsor (for instance, a library or museum applying through its 501(c)3 “Friends” organization) may do so.
- Non-profit applicants must be based in Wyoming and be experiencing hardship due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hardship includes, but is not limited to:
  - lost revenue due to canceled programs
  - threat of lost space due to inability to make rent, mortgage or utility payments
  - staff layoff or furlough due to inability to make payroll
  - risk of permanent closure
• Your organization cannot be presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from receiving grants from the Wyoming Humanities.
• Before receiving grant funds, your organization or fiscal sponsor must have a universal entity identifier number (DUNS number). Organizations that have applied for a DUNS but have not yet received one are welcome to submit an application. You can apply for a DUNS number by telephone (866-705-5711) or at this website: http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. On average, it takes about 2 days to receive a DUNS number.

Exclusions/Restrictions:

• Educational institutions are not eligible for general operating support grants, including public, private, parochial, and/or charter schools and colleges/universities.
• In accordance with federal mandates, funds cannot support:
  o the promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view;
  o advocacy of a particular program of social or political action;
  o the promotion of specific public policies or legislation;
  o lobbying activities;
  o purchase of land or facilities, construction, or renovation;
  o overlapping project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding;
  o projects that fall outside of the humanities and empirically-based social science research or policy studies;
  o purchase of food or beverages, archival acquisitions, academic fees or other degree-related expenses, courses, foreign or non-economy travel, book publication costs, fundraising or for-profit activities, capital expenses, eliminating or reducing existent debt or endowment contributions, prizes and awards, the regranting of funds, private and non-ADA accessible events/programs.

Review and Award Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on:
  o the demand and availability of funding;
  o the level of need identified in the application, and;
  o the degree to which the applicant’s mission and humanities-based activities align with values advanced by Wyoming Humanities

Application Deadlines

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All applications must be submitted using Wyoming Humanities’ online grant portal. If your organization has not recently applied for a grant from WYH, you may need to create an account. Please see the online grant portal for registration requirements. Past applicants may log in using their existing credentials.
**Reporting Requirements**

The final report will ask for:

- a brief narrative of the emergency funding’s impact on the organization;
- a report on what expenses the emergency funding covered;
- confirmation that federal funds were used appropriately

Reports will be due within 45 days of the organization's estimate of when funds would be expended (funds must be used before Oct. 31, 2020).

Recipients of these funds may be asked to participate in conversations and data collection about how COVID-19 is impacting cultural organizations in Wyoming.