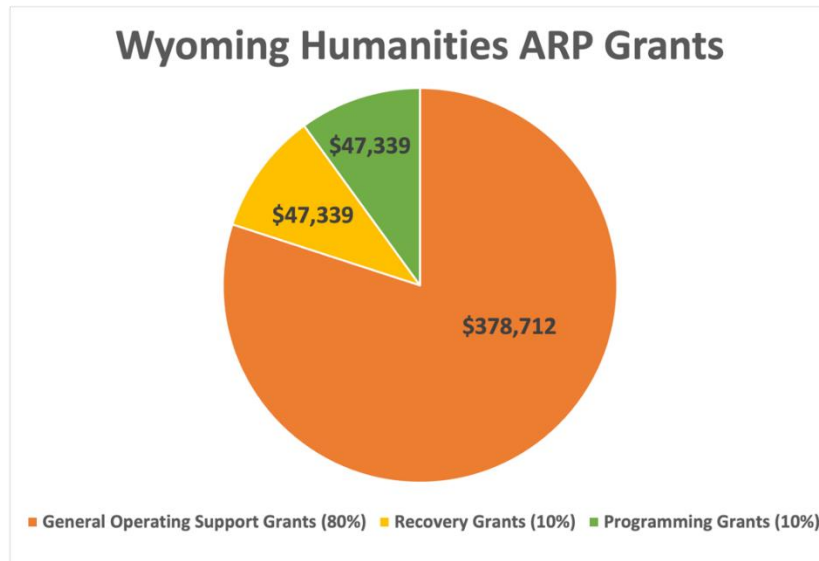


Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant Frequently Asked Questions

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) received \$135 million in supplemental funding to assist humanities organizations and other cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus pandemic as part of the \$1.9 trillion [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (ARP) approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden in March 2021. Read the press release from the National Endowment for the Humanities [here](#).

Wyoming Humanities received \$591,737 in American Rescue Plan funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Eighty percent of these funds must be regranted. The balance of ARP funding to Wyoming Humanities is for its own administrative and programming costs. Wyoming Humanities has created three separate grant lines to award a total of \$473,390 in ARP funding to help sustain the public humanities in Wyoming consistent with the intent of the ARP appropriation to “prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.”



This FAQ was last updated July 23, 2021, and will be updated as needed. Questions are organized into three sections:

- Questions that apply to all Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan grant lines
- Questions that apply to WYH ARP General Operating Support Grants
- Questions that apply to WYH ARP Programming and Recovery Grants



Questions that apply to all Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Grant Lines

What are Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Grants?

Wyoming Humanities will utilize the ARP funds received from the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide three separate grant lines. Applications for all three grants will be available on July 15, 2021. These are the three grant lines:

1. Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grants

General Operating Support Grants are exclusively for Humanities focused organizations. General operating support means that funding can be used for operational and salary support as identified by the organization: rent, administration, personnel, operating expenses, etc.

2. Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming Grants

Not-for-profit organizations with programs or projects rooted in the humanities are eligible to apply for Programming Grants. Organizations whose mission falls outside of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences ARE eligible to receive funding for Humanities-focused programs under Wyoming Humanities Programming Grants. However, the applying organization's missions must align with some or all of the public humanities values advanced by Wyoming Humanities.

3. Wyoming Humanities ARP Recovery Grants

Applicants will only be considered if activities are directly related to preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus. Only not-for-profit organizations whose missions align with some or all of the public humanities values advanced by Wyoming Humanities will be considered.

Who is eligible to receive a Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant?

To apply for an ARP Grant, non-profit cultural organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Be a recognized 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service with an existing EIN prior to the application deadline and/or:
 - accredited public and 501(c)(3) institutions of higher education (as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1001)
 - state and local governmental agencies
 - Federally recognized Native American tribal governments
- Have a primary mission that is humanities focused
- Offer humanities programs that are accessible to Wyoming and open to the public
- Have a program or project based in Wyoming
- Have a unique entity identifier (currently a D-U-N-S number)
- Have not been suspended or debarred
- Are not delinquent on federal debt
- Museums, archives, university presses, and public-facing cultural organizations affiliated with a college or university may apply for Wyoming Humanities ARP grants.



Who is not eligible for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant?

The following organizations are not eligible to apply for an American Rescue Plan grant:

- Religious or primarily faith-based programs or organizations receiving a significant portion of their funding from a religious organization
- For-profit organizations
- Individuals
- Nonprofit charitable organizations designed as private foundations by the Internal Revenue Service

What can Wyoming Humanities ARP Grants not be used for?

- unallowable expenses as defined in [2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles](#)
- indirect costs on general operating support grants
- overlapping project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding and/or approved federal awards
- funds for activities supported by other non-NEH federal funds
- competitive regranting
- cancellation costs
- pre-award costs prior to March 15, 2021
- equipment costs in excess of 20% of total award amount
- travel (both foreign and domestic)
- construction, purchase of real property, major alteration and renovation
- environmental sustainability
- collections acquisition
- the preservation, organization, or description of materials that are not regularly accessible for research, education, or public programming
- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- support of specific public policies or legislation
- lobbying
- programs/projects that fall outside of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences (including the creation or performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and quantitative social science research or policy studies)

What is the deadline to apply for Wyoming Humanities ARP Grants?

There are three deadlines to apply for Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant consideration:

- August 15, 2021
- September 15, 2021
- October 15, 2021



When will funds be issued?

All funds will be issued no later than December 31, 2021. Activities can commence as soon as application is approved for awarding.

What is the application process?

Wyoming Humanities is no longer requiring a Letter of Intent. If you believe that you are eligible for either a General Operating Support Grant, a Programming Grant, or a Recovery Grant, please apply. Applications will be screened by a panel of Wyoming Humanities Staff to verify eligibility status. Wyoming Humanities Board Grants and Programs Committee Members will review all eligible applications and make decisions for awarding. Awards will be based on available funds. Applicants will be notified via email of the application award status two to four weeks after the respective deadline.

When must Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant funds be used?

Grant activities must start no later than January 1, 2022 and must end no later than December 31, 2022. Activities can begin as soon as the grant is awarded.

If I receive a Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant, what are my responsibilities?

- Sign a grant agreement letter
- Complete the activities you outlined in your grant application within the grant period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- Send a thank you letter to both Senators and the member of Congress acknowledging their support.
- Acknowledge Wyoming Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities in all public communications and other marketing materials
- Submit a [final report](#) no later than December 31, 2022.

Do Wyoming Humanities ARP Grants require cost share?

No. There is no matching or cost share requirement tied to any ARP Grant. However, if you receive a Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming or Recovery Grant, Wyoming Humanities would greatly appreciate your organization providing cost share information. If you have questions regarding cost share please contact the Wyoming Humanities Director of Grants and Programs, Chloé Flagg at chloe@thinkwy.org

Where can I learn more about the American Rescue Plan Act?

You can access the full [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (ARP) approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden. The National Endowment for the Humanities also issued a [press release](#).



I have applied for other federal funding (grants and/or loans). Can I still apply for an American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant?

Yes. It is important to look at any restrictions for how each type of funding may be spent. For example, you can still apply for an ARP Grant if you have applied directly to other federal grant programs (including the NEH), but the funds may not be used for overlapping costs. Make sure to read all the guidelines closely and only apply for funds that you need.

If I received a Wyoming Cultural CARES Emergency Grant through Wyoming Humanities, am I eligible to apply for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant?

Yes, but some restrictions may apply. If you received a Wyoming Cultural CARES Emergency Grant and have not completed a final report for Wyoming Humanities you are not eligible to apply for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant. Once the organization's final report for Wyoming Cultural CARES Emergency Grant is complete, the organization can apply for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Grant.

If I applied for a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grant, can I also apply for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming Grant or a Wyoming Humanities ARP Recovery Grant?

Yes, however priority for awarding Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming and Recovery Grants will first be given to those who did not apply for and/or receive a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grant.



Questions that apply to Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grants

What is a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grant?

General operating support means that funding can be used for operational and salary support as identified by the organization: rent, administration, personnel, operating expenses, etc. However, it is important to note that there are some restrictions: organizations cannot use these funds for alcohol, lobbying, travel, or exclusively for equipment. Applicants will be asked to share how their organizations been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Who is eligible for a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grant?

General Operating Support Grants are exclusively for Humanities focused organizations. A humanities focused organization has a mission explicitly connected to the humanities and a history of specifically working in the humanities, as opposed to a group that occasionally tackles or delves into humanities-based themes or projects.

***NOTE:** Organizations whose mission falls outside of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences (including the creation or performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and quantitative social science research or policy studies) are NOT eligible to receive funding for general operating costs under ARP awards, as mandated by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).*

What are the maximum award amounts for a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grants?

General Operating Support Grants will be awarded based on an organization's most recent annual budget:

- Annual Operating Budget of \$0 – \$50,000 = Request Cap of \$5,000
- Annual Operating Budget of \$50,001 – \$250,000 = Request Cap of \$7,500
- Annual Operating Budget of \$250,001+ = Request Cap of \$10,000

How many Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grants are available?

Wyoming Humanities anticipates awarding 30 to 50 General Operating Support Grants. Number of awards and award amounts will be determined by funds available.

We are a new nonprofit humanities organization without an operating budget for FY2019. Are we still able to apply for a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support grant?

Yes, the organization is still eligible to apply. Because your organization had an operating budget of \$0 in FY2019, your organization may be able to request a cap of \$5,000.

What is a humanities focused organization for Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grants?

A humanities focused organization has a mission explicitly connected to the humanities and a history of specifically working in the humanities, as opposed to a group that occasionally tackles or delves into humanities-based themes or projects.

In order to apply for a Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grant you must be one of the following types of organizations:

1. **Cultural and Ethnic Organizations:** This category includes organizations dedicated to the study, preservation, and/or dissemination of the history and culture of ethnic groups.
2. **History Organizations:** This category includes historical societies and their support organizations, historical preservation groups and their support organizations, historic houses, folklore/folklife organizations, place-based learning organizations, cultural sustainability organizations, and other organizations with a historical focus.
3. **Humanities Museums:** This category includes organizations that acquire, preserve, research, exhibit, and provide for the educational use of works of art or objects/artifacts that are related to the study of humanities content.
4. **Literature Organizations:** This category includes organizations that promote the study or appreciation of books and/or literature.
5. **Humanities Education:** Organizations that offer classes, seminar, and workshops in the humanities (which include but are not limited to literature, languages, history, philosophy, religious studies, art history, and interdisciplinary humanities programs – like ethnic studies, gender and sexuality studies, and American studies). Literacy programs and English-language acquisition (ELL/ESL) programs are also eligible in this category.
6. **Media, Journalism, and Documentary Organizations:** Organizations that are committed to covering humanities themes and/or telling the stories, happenings, or histories of communities that are informed by the members of those communities, challenge predominant narratives, and/or nurture critical analysis of media.
7. **Libraries and Archives:** These organizations include operating libraries and archives (excluding those that are purely science- and medicine-focused). Combination museum-libraries can be treated as museums or libraries.
8. **Consortiums, alliances, collectives of above-named groups.**

NOTE: *If you are a humanities organization, but do not fit into any of the above classifications, please contact Wyoming Humanities Director of Grants and Programs Chloé Flagg at chloe@thinkwy.org so that we can discuss your organization type and whether you qualify for a General Operating Support Grant or should apply for a Humanities Program/Project Grant, or a Covid-19 Recovery Grant.*



Questions that apply to Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming and Recovery Grants

Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming Grants

What is a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming Grant?

Programming Grants are available to not-for-profit organizations with programs or projects rooted in the humanities. Applicants will be asked to share how they have been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with focus on the program or project.

Who is eligible for a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming Grant?

Non-humanities focused, not-for-profit organizations are eligible for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming Grant. What that means is that organizations whose mission falls outside of the humanities and the humanities-centered social sciences ARE eligible to receive funding for Humanities-focused programs under Wyoming Humanities Programming Grants as outlined by the National Endowment for the Humanities. However, the applying organization's missions must align with some or all of the public humanities values advanced by Wyoming Humanities. These values are:

- enhancing the creative and cultural economy;
- engaging communities to improve quality of life;
- raising cultural awareness to expand the Wyoming Narrative;
- promoting civics and democracy; and,
- fostering critical thinking and lifelong learning.

NOTE: Humanities focused organizations are also eligible for Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming Grants but are encouraged to apply for Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grants, as they provide the greatest level of flexibility.

What is the maximum grant award for a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming Grant?

The maximum grant award is \$5,000. Awards are granted based on the availability of funds.

What are the cost share requirements for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming Grant?

There are no cost share requirements for Wyoming Humanities ARP Grants. However, Wyoming Humanities encourages voluntary sharing of local cost-share data to help Wyoming Humanities achieve its own cost-share requirements.

For a Wyoming Humanities ARP Programming Grant, do I need a humanities scholar/expert?

Yes. A humanities scholar/expert is an acknowledged expert in a humanities field related to your project. Typically, a humanities scholar/expert will have an advanced degree (MA or above) in a humanities subject. Some examples of humanities scholars/experts include: humanities scholars and teachers, Tribal elders and tradition bearers, humanities writers and researchers, etc.

Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Recovery Grants

What is a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Recovery Grant?

Applicants will only be considered if activities are directly related to preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus. Those activities are limited to the following:

- Strategic planning and capacity building efforts (i.e., professional development/training, short and long-term planning, etc.)
- Technical and/or consultant needs related to a digital transition or in support of preservation and access programs
 - NOTE: equipment costs cannot exceed 20% of the award amount.
- Expansion, due to the effects of the coronavirus, of outdoor and virtual humanities programming and activities, from traditional environments to those that are more accessible.
- Equity assessments and planning related to coronavirus and the economic crisis.

Who is eligible for a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Recovery Grant?

Only not-for-profit organizations whose missions align with some or all of the public humanities values advanced by Wyoming Humanities will be considered eligible. These public humanities values are:

- enhancing the creative and cultural economy;
- engaging communities to improve quality of life;
- raising cultural awareness to expand the Wyoming Narrative;
- promoting civics and democracy; and,
- fostering critical thinking and lifelong learning.

If you are unsure if your organization's mission or recovery effort falls within these parameters for a Wyoming Humanities ARP Recovery Grant, please contact the Wyoming Humanities Director of Grants and Programs, Chloé Flagg at chloe@thinkwy.org

What is the maximum grant award for a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming Grant?

The maximum grant amount is \$5,000. Awards are granted based on the availability of funds.

What are the cost share requirements for a Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Recovery Grant?

There are no cost share requirements for Wyoming Humanities ARP Grants; however, Wyoming Humanities encourages voluntary sharing of local cost-share data to help Wyoming Humanities achieve its own cost-share requirements.



What do we mean by humanities programming by non-humanities focused organizations for the Wyoming Humanities American Rescue Plan Programming and Recovery Grants?

Wyoming Humanities believes that by supporting as many nonprofit organizations as possible in carrying out meaningful humanities focused programs, we make the public humanities more accessible across Wyoming. While we are dedicated to supporting the operations of explicitly humanities focused nonprofits, we are also committed to funding other Wyoming nonprofits to provide humanities focused programs for their communities. Examples of these types of grantees and programs include performing arts groups that include audience-based discussions of the work; visual arts groups or art museums that incorporate art history discussions or seminars; community-based organizations that host discussions with community members that promote civic engagement; etc.

What is an equity assessment?

According to the [Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Guidance](#) signed by President Joseph R. Biden on January 20, 2021, “The term “equity” means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.” Based on this Executive Order, an equity assessment is a study of an organization to determine its own consistent and systematic treatment of all individuals, including those belonging to the above mentioned underserved communities.

I'm still not sure what grant I should apply for. What should I do?

First assess whether you are in fact eligible for any of the three grants.

- Only organizations with a mission rooted in the humanities may apply for Wyoming Humanities ARP General Operating Support Grant (please reference the information above). If you are eligible to apply for a General Operating Support Grant, you should do so, as those grants offer the greatest flexibility in how funding may be used.
- If you are NOT a humanities-focused organization but do conduct humanities public programs, you are likely eligible for a Programming Grant or a Recovery Grant.
- If you still have questions about which type of grant to apply for, we strongly recommend contacting us or visiting thinkwy.org/grants for additional support.