Q: Who is eligible?

A: This grant program is available to two types of applicants: individuals and organizations.

The eligibility requirements for **organizations** are as follows:

1. Must be a CNMI-based non-profit group, a museum, or a library;
2. Must demonstrate a need for resources to mitigate impact of COVID-19 on operations and/or programming for the period March 15, 2020 to October 31, 2020;
3. Must support activities that provide public humanities-based programs;
   Non-eligible groups: a group focused primarily on the arts, a religious group, a government agency, a K-12 school or college/university.

The eligibility requirements for **individuals** are as follows:

1. Must be an adult (18 years of age or older) and a resident in the CNMI for at least one year prior to application submission date;
- *Consistent with the intent of the legislation and NEH policy, humanities scholars and other individuals participating in humanities programming and projects must be United States citizens, residents of U.S. jurisdictions, or foreign nationals who have been residing in the United States or its territories for at least the three years immediately preceding the application deadline.*
2. Must be a humanities scholar, expert, practitioner, or participant in humanities programming;
3. Must demonstrate actual and/or anticipated loss of fees in connection to planned participation in humanities-based projects or activities.

All applicants must complete a COVID-19 Relief Grant application form online. Go to www.nmhcouncil.org/COVID-19 for application guidelines and to access the online application form.

Q: Is a CW-1 permit holder eligible for a COVID-19 Relief Grant?

A: Foreign nationals must provide evidence of residing in the U.S. or any of its jurisdiction for at least three (3) years prior to application submission.

Q: Can a current or former grant recipient apply for these funds?

A: Former and current grantees of NMHC are eligible to apply for a COVID-19 Relief Grant. If a current grantee's loss of fees or income is associated with a current NMHC grant-funded project, the grantee must first exhaust all options for support through that project's award.

Q: Does receiving funds from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program funded by the CARES ACT affect my eligibility for a COVID-19 Relief Grant?

A: Organizations or individual contractors that receive funds from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program remain eligible for a COVID-19 Relief Grant.

Q: Can the same applicant apply for and receive grants for three different projects?

A: Applicants seeking support for humanities-based projects should apply for funding under the Community Grant Program.

Q: Is the COVID-19 Relief Grant funds primarily for operational costs or can our organizations use the funds for a new project with a Humanities theme?

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A: Grant funds are intended to help individuals and organizations mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Applicant Organizations** are expected to use grant funds to cover operational costs that are needed for the organization to maintain its capacity to carry out its mission during the pandemic. Organizations seeking support for new projects, activities, or programs should apply for funding under the Community Grant Program. **Individual applicants** must demonstrate actual or anticipated loss of fees or income as it relates to participation in a humanities-based project. Individual applicants may also obtain additional funding, within the $10,000 cap, for expenses that would help the applicant adapt to the impact of the pandemic so that planned humanities-based activities may continue.

Q: What are humanities-based activities or projects?

A: The humanities include but are not limited to the study of anthropology, archeology, history, modern and classical language, literature, law, political science, philosophy, comparative religion, ethics, the history, criticism and theory of the arts, women and gender studies, ethnic studies, and folklore. Examples of types of project activities include: research into the topic; development and production of program or discussion guides, exhibition materials, brochures, digital assets, publications, or other interpretive materials; conducting training; developing curriculum guides and other materials for teachers and students and; conservation of objects of historical and cultural value.

Q: Why is there three different deadlines?

A: Grant applications are due on May 15, 2020, June 19, 2020, and July 31, 2020. Providing more than one deadline allows us to review requests for additional funds after the first round of funding and provide potential new applicants with more time to evaluate eligibility and need.

Q: Is this grant program the same as the NEH grant opportunity?

A: The CARES Act appropriated $75 million to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to help cultural organizations, humanities scholars and other participants in humanities programming mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. $30 million of these funds were distributed among 56 state and territorial humanities councils for regrants to eligible entities within their jurisdictions. NMHC created the Northern Marianas Humanities Council COVID-19 Relief Grant to distribute funds allocated to our jurisdiction for this purpose. The National Endowment for the Humanities offers additional support through a separate grant program called NEH Cares: Cultural Organizations.

Q: When do I find out if I was awarded a grant?

A: Our goal is to make decisions and provide you with an award notification within two weeks of the application deadline.

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Application Guidelines: http://www.nmhcouncil.org/COVID-19
Additional Questions? Send us an email: info@nmhcouncil.org