**American Rescue Plan grants**

Kentucky Humanities has received funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) 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 U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden.

Kentucky Humanities will provide recovery funding to museums, archives, historic sites, and other nonprofits impacted by the pandemic.

**What is the purpose of the funds?**

The primary purpose of ARP funding is to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

The following activities are activities that can be supported with ARP subawards:

* Humanities programming
* General Operating costs of humanities focused organizations
* Strategic planning and capacity building efforts related to preparing, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus
* Technical/consultant needs related to a digital transition or in support of preservation and access programs (equipment costs cannot exceed 20% of a subaward)
* Expansion, due to the effects of the coronavirus, of outdoor and virtual humanities programming and engagement or similar activities to transition from traditional environments to those that are more accessible
* Equity assessments and planning related to coronavirus and the economic crisis

**Who is eligible?**

To apply for an American Rescue Plan grant, non-profit cultural organizations must meet the following criteria:

* Be a recognized 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service and have that IRS tax-exempt status for at least one year prior to the application deadline
* Have a primary mission that is humanities focused
* Offer humanities programs that are accessible to Kentuckians and open to the public
* Have a primary business address in Kentucky
* Have a unique entity identifier (currently a D-U-N-S number)
* Have not been suspended or debarred
* Are not delinquent on federal debt

**Who is not eligible?**

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

* Institutions of higher education or individual departments of colleges and universities
* Public libraries
* Religious or primarily faith-based programs or organizations receiving a significant portion of their funding from a religious organization
* Government agencies or institutions
* Public, private, or parochial schools
* For-profit organizations
* Individuals
* Nonprofit charitable organizations designed as private foundations by the Internal Revenue Service

However, museums, archives, university presses, and public-facing cultural organizations affiliated with a college or university may apply for ARP grants.

Organizations whose mission falls outside the humanities and humanistic social sciences are not eligible to receive funding for general operating costs under the ARP awards. They would be eligible for specific humanities related programming needs.

**What are the humanities?**

“The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.”

--National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act, 1965, as amended

**Public libraries and arts organizations**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) included federal funding for numerous agencies across Kentucky including the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. To ensure that this funding is distributed equitably, public libraries and arts-specific organizations should apply directly to those respective agencies for ARP funding.

**Funding amount**

Grants will range from $2,000 - $20,000. Applicant must demonstrate the need and submit a reasonable budget for the requested grant amount.

**What’s the deadline to apply?**

The deadline for applications is June 18, 2021. Priority will be given to the applications received by this date. Applications received by June 18 will be reviewed in July and awarded soon after our review. However, we will continue to accept applications until funding is exhausted. All grants must be awarded by November 30, 2021.

**When must grant funds be used?**

Activities funded through these grants must start no later than December 1, 2021 and must end no later than November 30, 2022. Activities can begin as soon as the grant is awarded.

**Funds may not be used for the following:**

* Unallowable expenses as defined in 2 CRF 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles
* Overlapping project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding and/or approved federal awards
* Fund for activities supported by other non-NEH federal funds
* Competitive regranting
* Cancellation costs
* Pre-award costs dating before March 15, 2021
* Equipment costs in excess of 20% of total project costs
* Travel (both foreign and domestic)
* Construction, purchase of real property, major alteration and renovation
* Environmental sustainability
* Collection 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
* 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)

**How do I apply?**

1. Carefully review the [**program guidelines**](http://www.artscouncil.ky.gov/KAC/Creative/KAPguidelines.htm)
2. Verify that you have an active D-U-N-S number
3. Complete the [**online application**](https://kyarts.gosmart.org/) by the deadline date
4. Submit all necessary attachments to the application.

**If I receive a grant, what are my responsibilities?**

* Sign a grant award letter
* Complete the activities you outlined in your grant application within the grant period
* Send a letter to both Senators and the member of Congress in your organization’s district thanking them for their support
* Acknowledge Kentucky Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities in all public communications
* Submit a [**final report**](https://kyarts.gosmart.org/) no later than 90 days following your grant end date

Applications will be reviewed by a panel and awarded based on available funds. Applicants will be notified via email of the application award status.

**If I have questions, who can help me?**

**Kathleen Pool**

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**How will grant applications be evaluated?**

The grant review committee will read and score applications on the following criteria:

* Organization meets basic requirements to apply (D-U-N-S #, not for profit organization, Kentucky organization) - 5 points
* Organization has expressed a clear, easily understood case for need created specifically by COVID - 25 points
* Organization has expressed a clear plan of how they will use these grant funds - 15 points
* Organization has established track record of commitment to the humanities. Published mission indicates they are a humanities organization. - 25 points
* Organization clearly describes DEI initiatives and helps Kentucky Humanities with outreach in underserved areas and constituencies of the Commonwealth - 25 points
* Organization has other circumstances that need to be considered in providing funding. - 5 points