



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Cultural and Community Resilience Division of Preservation and Access**

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### **Purpose and Background**

#### **1. What are the humanities?**

According to the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, “The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study 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 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.”

#### **2. What is the Justice40 Initiative?**

The Justice40 Initiative is a whole-of-government effort to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities. This investment is intended to confront decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities and bring critical resources to communities that have been overburdened by legacy pollution and environmental hazards. Learn more at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>

#### **3. How can we identify communities that are disadvantaged?**

You can use the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool](#) to identify communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment. Applicants may choose to incorporate other means to describe how their community is disadvantaged in addition to or in place of the screening tool.

#### **4. Our community is not identified as “disadvantaged” according to the Climate and Economic Screening tool. Can we still apply?**

Yes, you may apply if your project focuses on supporting community-based efforts to mitigate climate change and pandemic impacts within the U.S. and its jurisdictions. However, NEH will prioritize applications from organizations in disadvantaged communities that advance the goals of the Justice40 Initiative under this opportunity.

#### **5. What is Creative Commons and is it required for our project?**

Creative Commons is a global nonprofit organization that enables sharing and reuse of creativity and knowledge through the provision of free legal tools. They provide legal tools to help those who want to encourage reuse of their works by offering generous, standardized terms. Creative Commons licenses and tools were designed specifically to work with the web, which makes content that is offered under their terms easy to search for, discover, and use. NEH does not require use of Creative Commons licenses and encourages practices that are relevant to your community. Learn more at: <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/>.

#### **6. Should we have consultants and/or a board of advisers set up and committed before we apply?**

While having an advisory board is not a requirement, many projects benefit from early consultation with community members, scholarly advisers, and technical experts to plan for implementation. The collaboration of highly qualified and experienced individuals makes it more likely that evaluators will endorse an application.

#### **7. What project stages and deliverables does the program support?**

The Cultural and Community Resilience program supports projects at all stages of development from planning to implementation. They may include deliverables that are pilot or preparatory, such as establishing community and institutional relationships, creating memoranda of understanding, or developing, trialing, and documenting methods and workflows, or may be comprehensive in their implementation of community oral history creation and preservation or other outputs.

## **Eligibility**

#### **1. What organizations are eligible to apply to the Cultural and Community Resilience program?**

Eligible applicants include U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, public and 501(c)(3) accredited institutions of higher education, state and local governmental agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments.

Individuals, foreign, and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

#### **2. May a non-U.S. institution or organization apply for a NEH award?**

No, foreign entities are not eligible to apply. NEH does not provide financial assistance to foreign institutions or organizations. Nevertheless, otherwise eligible institutions may apply for collaborative projects involving U.S. and foreign organizations provided they do not use NEH funds for the purpose of issuing subawards to any foreign organization.

If you are interested in submitting an application for a project involving international collaboration, consult beforehand with the Division of Preservation and Access staff at [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov).

## **Application and Submission Information**

### **1. Whom should we ask to provide letters of support?**

Letters of support should come from people who can objectively assess the importance of the project to the humanities. Writers may also include people who are community members and who can attest to the need for the proposed work. They should not be project participants or employees of the applicant institution. Writers should submit the letters to the project director (not separately to NEH), who will submit them with the application.

### **2. May we submit a draft narrative for preliminary review?**

Yes, program officers will review one draft per project submitted by April 11, 2024, as listed in section D4. of the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Program officers will not read drafts submitted after the deadline.

### **3. Will there be a Project Director's meeting for the Cultural and Community Resilience program?**

Yes, please include funds for two members of the project team to attend a two-day meeting in Washington, D.C., in May 2026. NEH has hosted recent meetings virtually due to travel restrictions but hopes to resume in-person meetings in the future. If the meeting is virtual, NEH may allow you to reallocate travel funds to other project activities. Attendance is mandatory, whether the meeting is in person or virtual. You may not use NEH funds to attend regularly occurring professional meetings unless the purpose of attending is to disseminate project-related findings.

### **4. Whom should we contact if we have technical questions regarding the submission of our application in Grants.gov?**

You should contact [Grants.gov Applicant Support](#) at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) for technical assistance. Always obtain a case number when calling for support.

You may also find answers to your questions on the [Grants.gov Online Help](#) page. In addition, Grants.gov maintains [a library of instructional videos](#) which may be helpful resources as you prepare your application.

## **Application Review Information**

### **1. Who will review our application?**

Knowledgeable persons will read each application and advise NEH about its merits. Reviewers include a mix of professionals, such as museum curators, librarians, archivists, and administrators of cultural organizations, as well as scholars and community members who use the kinds of collections that are the focus of your project. NEH program officers supplement the peer reviewers' comments to address matters of fact or significant points that the peer reviewers have overlooked. They then make funding recommendations to the [National Council on the Humanities](#), taking into account the program's purpose and intended audience. The National Council meets at least twice each year to review applications and advise the NEH Chair. By law, the Chair has the sole authority to make final funding decisions.

[Learn more about NEH's review process.](#)