



OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506
Room 420
Email: CHALLENGE@NEH.GOV

Guiding Principles for Independent Status

Because an institution may hold only one NEH Challenge Grant at a time, determination must be made as to the independent status of an organization affiliated with another organization or institution. Independent status can also affect the required matching ratio. Examples include university-affiliated humanities centers or museums.

An affiliate is deemed sufficiently independent to apply separately from the parent organization if, and only if,

- a) both the fund-raising activities and program activities which will benefit from the Challenge Grant are governed by an independent board of trustees or advisors;
- b) the applying unit is financially independent from the host institution; and
- c) the applicant has an administration and programs independent of the host institution.

Determination of independent status is made on a case-by-case basis using the three criteria above. Factors that can serve as evidence of independent or non-independent status include:

- incorporation;
- whether the potential applicant is legally entitled to apply, and legally entitled to receive, an NEH grant;
- the employment status of the applicant's staff in relation to the parent organization;
- the degree to which the applicant institution determines its own budget and spends its own resources without needing approval of the parent organization;
- how much of the applicant institution's income derives from the parent organization;
- the degree to which the applicant's governing board and officers are appointed and function independently of the parent organization.

NOTE on precedent: An entity permitted to apply independently in the past is considered independent for future applications.