



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CARES Act Grants

When is the deadline for submitting an application?

Friday, May 22 by 11:59 pm. We recommend submitting your application as soon as you can.

Can I apply if I have an open grant with Mass Humanities?

Yes. Our usual rule not allowing more than one open grant at a time does not apply to CARES Act funding.

Does CARES Act funding require a match?

No. CARES Act funding is for operating support and no match is required.

When you say in your grant guidelines that “Massachusetts-based nonprofits” are eligible, what does that mean?

Organizations that are 501(c)3s and that are incorporated in a town or city in Massachusetts are eligible to apply. Note that you will need to upload in the application your IRS determination letter as proof of your status as a 501(c)3.

If my nonprofit is not yet a 501(c)3, can I apply for CARES Act funding through a fiscal sponsor?

No. Organizations must be a 501(c)3 to be eligible for CARES Act funding through Mass Humanities.

What do you mean by humanities mission?

If engagement with history, literature, philosophy, or other humanities disciplines is central to the work of your organization, then the humanities are likely to be central to your mission. For the CARES Act grant application, you will be including your organization’s Mission Statement but

can elaborate on its humanities' dimensions if they are not already clear in the Mission Statement.

Can my organization apply if our focus is art or performance?

While the humanities may not be central to the mission of many arts and performing arts organizations, such organizations often offer humanities-based programming. If your organization offers your community, or your audiences, programming that helps them engage in humanistic reflection on art and/or theater, then you offer humanities programming and are eligible for CARES Act funding.

Make sure to describe your humanities programming, its audience/participants, and how often it is offered in the section of the application on "Organization Mission and Programs."

Are libraries eligible for CARES Act funding?

To be eligible for CARES Act funding through Mass Humanities, organizations must be a 501(c)3. We are not funding government entities. Any publicly-funded libraries that have a Friends of the Library group or other foundation connected with their library can apply through that 501(c)3. That organization will need to have its own DUNS number, separate from that of the town. However, the Friends group can submit the budget for the library itself.

Can my organization apply if our focus is community services?

If your organization is a community service organization, the humanities may not be central to your mission. However, if your organization is a 501(c)3 and regularly offers humanities programming to your constituents, then you are eligible for CARES Act funding.

Make sure to describe your humanities programming, its audience/participants, and how often it is offered in the section of the application on "Organization Mission and Programs."

If my organization's operating expenses are \$350K but our projected losses are only \$4,000, can we still apply for a \$5,000 grant?

No. Your losses need to be at least as much as the grant award.

What can the funding be used for?

Funding is for operating support and can include expenses like mortgage payments, rent, payroll, utilities, insurance, equipment (up to \$5,000), and any costs related to your programming, exhibits, and other humanities-based work. Funds can only cover federally allowable expenses occurring within the grant award period. Grant funds may not be used for lobbying, fundraising, the purchase of alcoholic beverages, entertainment, the purchase, construction, or renovation of land or facilities, or other unallowable costs for Federal Grants (see [2 CFR 200, Subpart E - Cost Principles](#)).

If granted an award, how long will we have to spend the funding?

You will have until Sept. 1, 2020, when the grant period ends. Grantees must submit a final report that documents how you spent the funds no later than Oct. 1, 2020.

My organization recently has applied or re-applied for 501(c)3 status and is still awaiting word on whether it has been approved. Can we apply for a CAREs Act grant?

If you are awaiting approval from the IRS as a 501(c)3, you cannot apply until you have received your IRS determination letter. Awards will be made on a rolling basis, and you can apply as long as the application is open.

My organization received a PPP loan. Are we still eligible for this grant?

Yes, as long as your PPP loan is not covering all of your current expenditures. If you receive CARES Act funding from Mass Humanities, you cannot use our funding to pay for the same expenditures covered by funds from your PPP loan.

We can't go to the office right now. If awarded a grant, will you be able to deposit the amount directly in my organization's account?

Yes. You have the option of having your grant award deposited directly into your organization's bank account. When you receive your grant agreement, you have the option to provide the name of your bank, the names on the account, the routing number, and the account number.