



Mass Humanities SHARP Grants FAQ

1. When is the deadline for submitting an application?

The deadline to submit your application is Wednesday, August 4, 2021 by 11:59pm.

2. How much can I apply for?

Up to \$20,000. Note: applicants' grant request cannot not exceed 50% of their most recently reported total operating expenses.

3. Do SHARP funds require a match?

No. SHARP money is for operating support and no match is required.

4. I am not a non-profit. Can I apply?

To be eligible for a grant your organization must be:

- A 501(3) nonprofit tax exempt organization based in Massachusetts.

OR

- A federally recognized tribe based in Massachusetts.

5. What type of organization is not eligible to apply for funding?

- For-profit entities.
- Municipality entity or government agencies.
Exception: libraries may apply but only through their 501(c)3 support group.
- Universities, colleges, academic departments.
- Organizations whose mission and programs is the creation or performance of art.
- Political or advocacy organizations.
- Unincorporated association.
- Fiscally sponsored organizations
- Individuals.

- Foreign organizations

6. You mention that libraries are an exception and can apply. Are there any rules I need to know about?

Any publicly funded library with a Friends of the Library group or other foundation connected to their library that is a 501(c) 3 is eligible to apply for a grant. The organization must have its own DUNS number, separate from the municipality. When completing application questions about expenses and staffing, give answers that reflect the library's operations.

7. My organization already has a project grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and is also applying for an Expand Massachusetts Stories grant from Mass Humanities. Are we eligible to apply?

Yes, you can still apply for SHARP funds. However, you may not apply for overlapping program or project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding and/or Mass Humanities project-based grant. Here's what that means: you cannot apply for SHARP funds for costs directly related to either the NEH or Mass Humanities grant project. Apply for SHARP funds for other costs involved in preparing for, responding to, or recovering from the effects of the coronavirus.

8. What do you mean by "humanities mission"?

To be eligible for a grant, your organization's mission and program must focus on the humanities.

Here is how the National Endowment for the Humanities defines 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 the Humanities Act, 1965, as amended.*

9. What can the money be used for?

The money can be used for general operating support in five areas: revenue, staffing, training, re-building audiences, and organizational capacity.

You may apply across all of the five areas or choose to focus your application on one or more category. Review the categories in the guidelines.

10. If given a grant, how long do we have to spend the money?

Just over a year. Mass Humanities will contact all the applicants in mid-September to let them know whether their application received an award.

Mass Humanities will require organizations in receipt of a grant to complete a final report no later than December 30, 2022.

11. How do I apply?

The application is online. Click this link to access the application:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=masshumanities>

If you are a past grantee, you should have a record of your login information. Enter your information and log in. Use the "*Forgot your Password*" link to reset your password.

If you are new to Mass Humanities, select "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Tutorials

- [Video Tutorial 1: Site Access & Account Creation](#) (3 minutes long)
- [Video Tutorial 2: Applying for Funding](#) (5 minutes long)
- [Video Tutorial 3: Your Applicant Dashboard](#) (3 minutes long)
- [Written Tutorial](#)

12. Who do I contact if I have questions?

Email Meri Jenkins at mjenkins@masshumanities.org.