

National Endowment for the Arts

Notice of Funding Opportunity: FY26 Partnership Agreement Grants

Grant Program Details: State Arts Agencies

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Access for individuals with disabilities:

Contact accessibility@arts.gov to request an accommodation or an alternate format of the guidelines at least 2 weeks before the application deadline.

Partnership Agreement Grants: State Arts Agencies (SAAs)

Basic Information

Federal Agency Name	National Endowment for the Arts
Funding Opportunity Title	Partnership Agreement Grants
Announcement Type	Modification of previous announcement
Funding Opportunity Number(s)	2026NEA04PA
Assistance Listing Number(s)	45.025
Agency Contact Information	Contacts Page

FUNDING DETAILS	AMOUNT <i>(Contingent on availability of funds)</i>
Total amount of funding expected to award	\$59,000,000
Anticipated number of awards	56
Expected dollar value of awards (range)	\$300,000-\$1,700,000

Executive Summary

The National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) State & Regional Partnership Agreement grants are awarded to the nation's [56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies](#) (SAAs), and the [six regional arts organizations](#) (RAOs) with geographically-defined SAA memberships.

Partnership Agreement grant support enables SAAs to respond to the needs identified through public planning undertaken with their constituents, partners, and stakeholders. This investment in locally-determined priorities extends federal reach and impact, translating national leadership into local benefit.

Eligibility is limited to the fifty state and six jurisdictional arts agencies. All SAAs must apply annually for this support.

COMPONENTS OF THIS NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO):

- **GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS (this document):** Information about the grant program, including a grant program description, eligibility, review criteria, award amount and cost sharing, and post-award requirements and administration, among others.
- **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS DOCUMENT:** Navigate to the "Application Instructions" section on the Partnership Agreements webpage for complete information on application requirements and how to complete and submit your application.

KEY DATES:

Step	Date
Grant Program Details and Application Instructions Published	August 2025
Application Package Available on Grants.gov	August 2025
Submit Application to Grants.gov	September 25, 2025 11:59 pm ET
Notification of recommended funding or rejection	April 2026
Submit Partnership Agreements Budget Form	Date Announced in Notification of Funding
Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project	July 1, 2026

State Arts Agencies Program Description

Partnership Agreement grants to State Arts Agencies (SAAs) enable the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to make the arts available in more communities than it could through direct grants alone. The SAAs greatly extend the federal reach and impact, translating national leadership into local benefit.

With federal funds providing both a national example and financial incentive, NEA support for SAAs has helped to attract state funding that on a nationwide basis far exceeds the federal support. State government support is vital to the arts in America.

At the core of this federal-state partnership is the planning process that each SAA engages in to identify and examine state priorities. Planning is responsive, reflecting the goals and activities determined to be most important to that state.

Program Goals & Objectives

State Partnership Agreement grants support state-identified goals and activities consistent with the SAA's strategic plan. SAAs are encouraged to review [NEA agency priorities](#) as part of their own strategic planning processes.

While providing leadership for their states, the SAAs may also receive funding to support shared goals and objectives in the areas of folk & traditional arts, arts education, arts & health, Poetry Out Loud, and reaching underserved groups/communities. Funding for these program components is included in the Partnership Agreement award total, with a required cost share-match.

Arts Education

The NEA envisions a nation where every student is engaged and empowered through an excellent arts education. Arts education is vital to developing America's next generation of creative and innovative thinkers. Partnership Agreement grant support is intended to respond to the objectives, strategies, and programs that each state arts agency develops based on national or state arts education standards, as appropriate, and its state's needs, opportunities, and resources. Possible components of a state's arts education program might include, but are not limited to, curriculum-based learning; hands-on instruction; artist residencies; grants and/or technical assistance; apprenticeship programs; job training for youth; training and/or professional development; and planning or implementation of activities such as cross-sector partnerships, convenings, arts education data initiatives, collective impact consultation, and/or an arts education strategic plan. Project activities may be offered in a variety of settings during and outside of the school day.

Folk and Traditional Arts Partnership

The NEA ensures traditional artists and culture-bearers have the opportunity to pass on cultural knowledge of their art forms. To support this goal, Folk and Traditional Arts Partnerships

funding is intended to strengthen living cultural traditions in every state, jurisdiction, or region and bolster the folk and traditional arts ecosystem. The NEA envisions stable, outreach-driven programs that are responsive to a state's folk and traditional arts heritage. States are encouraged to support professional, paid positions in the folk and traditional arts. Possible components of a state's folk and traditional arts program might include, but are not limited to, fieldwork to identify and document underserved folk & traditional artists; apprenticeships, mentorships, or folk arts in education programs; and statewide activities that increase public awareness of living cultural heritage.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

Funding in support of Poetry Out Loud programming is included in Partnership Agreement grants. This funding is available in amounts of up to \$25,000 per participating agency for FY26. For additional information about Poetry Out Loud, please visit www.poetryoutloud.org.

Arts & Health

Artists, cultural institutions, and arts and cultural participation strengthen our civic infrastructure and contribute to health and wellbeing through a myriad of ways. In FY26, NEA is continuing to offer optional funding for SAAs to support arts and cultural projects that contribute to overall health and well-being for individuals and communities.

Funding in support of these activities is available in an amount of up to \$50,000 per participating agency for FY26.

National Endowment for the Arts, Regional, and State Partnership

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the RAOs, and the SAAs comprise a national network of arts funders, cultural program and service providers, and leaders in the arts and culture sector. We believe that each participating entity benefits from partnership in the network. We invest in the network through State and Regional Partnership Agreement grants in order to:

- Strengthen the cultural infrastructure of the United States,
- Facilitate the creation and presentation of artistic works,
- Provide the public with lifelong learning opportunities in the arts,
- Enhance public engagement with, and access to, the arts,
- Foster greater cultural understanding, and
- Contribute to the enrichment of lives and communities throughout the nation.

We acknowledge that SAAs may choose to participate in the work of an RAO of which it is not a member. SAAs may choose to shift membership from one RAO to another, or may choose to withhold membership in an RAO. While recognizing that the ecology of the network benefits from change, we also believe that the network benefits from stability. To this end, shifts in state membership in RAOs must be preceded by at least one full year of planning by all of the agencies involved, including the NEA.

Eligibility Requirements for State Arts Agencies

SAA Partnership Agreement grants are limited to the fifty state and six jurisdictional arts agencies. In order to enter into an SAA Partnership Agreement grant and receive federal funding from the NEA, an SAA must comply with the following requirements:

Legal

The state arts agency must:

- Comply, at the time of application, with the legal requirements outlined in the [NEA's authorizing legislation](#) 20 U.S.C. § 954 (2012).

Organizational Entity and Capacity

The state arts agency must:

- Be domiciled within the State.
- Be designated by its State government as programmatically and administratively responsible for developing a statewide arts plan and establishing arts and cultural policy having a statewide impact.
- Be designated as officially responsible for coordinating and administering all financial support received from the NEA and the State in conjunction with the state arts agency Partnership Agreement grant.
- Have designated staff with relevant experience; a designated budget; and an independent board, council, or commission whose members serve in an advisory or policy-making capacity.
- Base program funding decisions on criteria that includes artistic excellence and artistic merit.

Financial Support, Cost Share Funds, and Financial Reporting

The state arts agency must:

- Be financially supported by its State government.
- Provide a cost share to the NEA Partnership Agreement grant funds of at least 1 to 1.
 - The 1 to 1 cost share must come from state government funds that are directly controlled and appropriated by the state and directly managed by the state agency.
- Use Partnership Agreement grant funds to supplement and not supplant non-federal funds. (Non-federal funds cannot be replaced with federal funds with the intention or effect of reducing State financial support for the state arts agency.)

SAM Registration

All applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), be registered with the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM) and maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete, and throughout the life of the award.

Planning Process

The state arts agency must have developed a state arts plan that:

- Results from a responsive, public process that solicited and represented the perspectives of arts constituencies throughout the State, and
- Reflects recommendations from the public process, as well as programmatic and/or policy responses to the recommendations.

The state arts agency submits this plan with its Partnership Agreement grant application.

Subawards

State arts agencies that subaward must:

- Require their recipients to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number before an award can be made.
- Report awards of \$30,000 or more in federal funds and, if required, information about the compensation of executives related to those grants to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System (FSRS).
- Base subaward program funding decisions on criteria that includes artistic excellence and artistic merit.
- Ensure that all subawards made with federal or cost share funds are, per 2 CFR 200.331, in compliance with the General Terms and Conditions for the NEA award, including requirements for pass-through entities (including specific requirements related to 504/ADA and Civil Rights).

Subgranting to individuals is not allowed, with the exception of support for folk arts and professional development activities.

For full requirements for subawards, see the [Partnership Agreements General Terms and Conditions](#).

Award Amounts & Cost Share

Partnership Award Amounts

Funds to support state-identified goals and activities will be awarded in accordance with the NEA's legislative mandate. Additionally, awards may include funds for shared programmatic goals and objectives, to support Arts Education, Folk and Traditional Arts, Arts & Health, and Poetry Out Loud activities.

Partnership award amounts are determined through a formulaic process that includes consideration of NEA allocations and available funds, previous award levels, current SAA program offerings, and population figures.

Cost Share Funds

All awards require a cost share of at least 1 to 1.

The 1 to 1 cost share must come from state government funds that are directly controlled and appropriated by the state and directly managed by the state agency.

For those agencies covered by the Economic Development of the Territories Act (American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands), the cost share requirement does not apply to the first \$200,000 of NEA funds (48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), as amended). Agencies must request a waiver from the cost share requirement for amounts above the first \$200,000 of our funds.

Period of Performance

Awards will support activities that are scheduled to begin on July 1, 2026, or any time thereafter.

All costs included in your Project Budget, whether supported by NEA funds or cost share funds, must be expended during your period of performance, including all costs associated with subaward activity. Subawards must take place and be closed out during your period of performance.

Application Contents & Format

Application Instructions

A document containing detailed instructions on how to prepare and submit your application can be found on the [Partnership Agreement Grants](#) page, under “Grant Program Details and Instructions”.

Reminder: SAA Applicants are no longer designated as on-year or off-year, *ALL SAA applicants must submit a full application* each year.

Submit Application via Grants.gov

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov, the federal government’s online application system. **The Grants.gov system must receive your validated application no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 25, 2025.**

We suggest that you submit your application **at least 10 days prior to the deadline** to give yourself ample time to resolve any problems that you might encounter. You take significant risk by waiting until the day of the deadline to submit your application. Late applications will not be accepted.

To begin the submission process, access the Grant Opportunity Package on the [Partnership Agreement Grants](#) page, under the “How to Apply” heading.

Applications Recommended for Funding

Following the notification of funding offers (anticipated to be April 2026), all applicants must complete and submit a Partnership Agreement grant budget for NEA review. Instructions and deadlines will be provided with the notification of funding.

Submission Requirements & Deadlines

Pre-Application Required Registration

Before applying, all applicants must register with [Login.gov](#), [Grants.gov](#), and the System for Award Management (SAM) at [SAM.gov](#). Applicants must provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in their application and continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current entity information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal agency. **All three required registrations must be active to submit the application through Grants.gov.**

Returning applicants must renew or verify that their registrations are up to date prior to the application deadline.

Registering and maintaining accounts with Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov is always FREE.

The **Registration Guidance document** available on the Partnership Agreements webpage provides detailed information about the registration process, including links to each registration site, and support resources.

Submission Methods

Application materials must be submitted electronically.

Contact Information

For assistance with application requirements, [contact NEA staff](#).

Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov Help

The NEA does not have access to your Login.gov, SAM, or Grants.gov accounts. If you have any questions about or need assistance with these sites, including questions regarding electronic accessibility, you must contact them directly:

- **Login.gov Help:** Call 1-844-875-6446, consult the information posted in their [Help Center](#), or use their [online form](#) to submit a question.
- **SAM Federal Service Desk:** Call 1-866-606-8220 or see the information posted on the SAM website at [SAM Help](#).
- **Grants.gov Contact Center:** Call 1-800-518-4726, email support@grants.gov, or consult the information posted on the Grants.gov website at [Support](#). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Application Submission Dates and Times

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All SAA applicants will submit a full application.

In the event of an emergency (e.g., a hurricane, a SAM.gov or Grants.gov technological failure), the NEA Chair may adjust application deadlines for affected applicants. If a deadline is extended for any reason, an announcement will be posted on our website.

Intergovernmental Review

Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact for [Executive Order 12372](#) to determine whether this application is subject to their state's intergovernmental review process. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) maintains a list of official State Single Points of Contact designated by the States to review and coordinate proposed federal financial assistance and direct federal development.

Application Review

Review Criteria

Review of the application narrative and state arts plan documents addressing:

- The SAA's operating environment, mission, and goals.
- The SAA's planning process, including:
 - the timeline and methodology for constituent engagement through a wide variety of means (such as public meetings, surveys, interviews, virtual engagement, and digital communications, as relevant to various constituent groups); and
 - opportunities for a wide range of constituents to participate in the planning process, including those in underserved groups/communities. For the purposes of these guidelines, an underserved group/community includes populations whose opportunities to experience the arts have been limited relative to factors such as geography, economic status, ethnicity, or disability. Within this broad definition, SAAs are asked to specify their own underserved groups/communities.
- The SAA's responses to the planning process, including:
 - responses to recommendations and priorities identified through the planning process and/or changing circumstances in the state; and
 - processes and metrics used to monitor progress in relation to the state plan.
- The SAA's programming, including programs and activities reflected in the plan and
 - as relevant, programs and activities with shared state and federal goals and objectives (Arts Education, Folk and Traditional Arts, Arts & Health, and Poetry Out Loud). Discussion of programming should include details related to:
 - implementation of the arts-related programs and services, and
 - related planning, accomplishments, challenges, and/or opportunities.
- The SAA's commitment and capacity to implement the arts-related programs and services reflected in the plan.

Review Process

Applications are evaluated according to the Review Criteria.

Funding recommendations are considered by the National Council on the Arts, and are voted on in open session. The Council makes recommendations to the Chair of the NEA. The Chair reviews the Council's recommendations and makes the final decision on all grant awards. Applicants are then notified of funding decisions.

Risk Review

All recommended applications undergo a review to evaluate risk posed by the applicant prior to making a federal award. This may include past performance on grants, ability to meet reporting deadlines, compliance with terms and conditions, audit findings, etc.

Award Notices

Official grant award notification (i.e., a notice of action authorized by the National Endowment for the Arts' Grants Management Office) is the only legal and valid confirmation of award. This can take several months to issue depending on several factors such as the number of awards to be processed, whether the NEA has its appropriation from Congress, etc. **All NEA awards are contingent on active SAM registration; the NEA will not be able to issue an award if you have an expired SAM.gov registration on September 1 of the fiscal year listed on this funding opportunity.**

Post-Award Requirements & Administration

Prohibition on Supplanting Non-Federal Funds

Partnership Agreement grants must be used to supplement and not supplant non-federal funds. For the purposes of these guidelines, the term "supplant non-federal funds" is defined as using federal dollars to replace non-federal dollars, with the intention or effect of reducing financial support for an SAA or RAO from non-federal funds.

General Terms & Conditions

Federal and agency requirements for NEA grants are included in our [General Terms & Conditions](#) (GTC). The GTC incorporates the adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 by reference. The document also explicitly identifies where the NEA has selected options offered in the regulation, such as budget waivers and requirements for use of program income. It also includes requirements for cost share funds, reporting requirements, amendment processes, and termination actions. **Recipients must review, understand, and comply with these requirements.** Failure to comply with the GTCs for an award may result in termination of a grant award, and/or returning funds to the NEA, among other consequences.

Implementation of Title 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

This guidance from the federal government's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes clarity and consistency of the pre- and post-award requirements applicable to federal financial assistance recipients. Under the authority listed above, the NEA adopts the OMB Guidance in [2 CFR part 200 under §3255.1 Adoption of 2 CFR Part 200](#). This part gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance and supplements the guidance as needed for the NEA.

Crediting Requirement

Recipients must clearly acknowledge NEA support in their programs and related promotional material including publications and websites.

Acknowledgments should include the National Endowment for the Arts logo wherever possible. In addition, we will provide detailed crediting language for SAAs and RAOs to use with their own subrecipients.

Project Reporting and Evaluation

When a grant is completed, you must submit a final report and answer questions detailing all activities conducted under the State Arts Plan or Regional Arts Plan (SAA / RAO Arts Plan) that was approved as part of your NEA Partnership Agreement grant application and that took

place within the approved period of performance for the award. Before applying, [review the reporting requirements](#).

Final Reporting on Previous Awards

Before a grant is awarded, organizations must have submitted acceptable Final Report packages by the due date(s) for all NEA grant(s) previously received, and report on funded activities in accordance with the National Standard for Arts Information Exchange. Final Reports include the Federal Financial Report, and the Final Descriptive Report.

Legal Requirements and Assurance of Compliance

The [Legal Requirements](#) section on our website provides information about key legal requirements that may apply to an applicant or recipient. It is not an exhaustive list; more details may be found in Appendix A of the [General Terms & Conditions](#).

By signing and submitting the application form on Grants.gov, the Applicant certifies that it is in compliance with the statutes outlined in the [Assurance of Compliance](#) and all related National Endowment for the Arts regulations as well as all applicable executive orders, and that it will maintain records and submit the reports that are necessary to determine its compliance.

It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that you are compliant with all legal, regulatory, and policy requirements applicable to your award.

For more information, review the [Assurance of Compliance FAQ](#).

Civil Rights

The Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or civilrights@arts.gov investigates complaints about compliance with accessibility standards as well as other federal civil rights statutes. For further information and copies of the nondiscrimination regulations identified above, contact the Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or civilrights@arts.gov.

Regulations Relating to Lobbying

For organizations applying for more than \$100,000 (31 U.S.C. 1352).

The applicant certifies that:

- a) It has not and will not use federal appropriated funds or cost share funds to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of a National Endowment for the Arts advisory panel or the National Council on the Arts, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a

Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of or modification to any federal grant or contract.

- b) If it has used or will use any funds other than federal appropriated funds to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the individuals specified above, the applicant:
 - i) Is not required to disclose that activity if that person is regularly employed by the applicant. (Regularly employed means working for at least 130 days within the year immediately preceding the submission of this application.)
 - ii) Will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," if that person is not regularly employed by the applicant.
 - iii) Will require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards of more than \$100,000 and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at an average of 32 hours per response. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. We welcome any suggestions that you might have on improving the Guidelines and making them as easy to use as possible. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: webmgr@arts.gov, attention: Reporting Burden. Note: Applicants are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

ALN No. 45.025

OMB No. 3135-0112 Expires 10/31/25