

CFDA No.
45.024
NEAPS1701

Program Solicitation: The Statewide Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education

Project Proposal Receipt Deadline: April 12, 2017

Organizations must submit their proposals electronically through Grants.gov, the federal government's online application system. The Grants.gov system must receive your validated and accepted proposal no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline date above. We strongly recommend that you submit your application by April 2, 2017 to give yourself ample time to resolve any problems that you might encounter.

Background

Through the Statewide Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education, the National Endowment for the Arts will support state-level extraction, analysis, and reporting of K-12 arts education data that is already being collected by states.

Easy access to timely, reliable data about arts education is a prerequisite for knowing how much and to whom arts education is being delivered in schools. These data can help decision-makers determine whether they are meeting national and state-approved policies and content standards regarding arts education. In addition, these data can help state departments of education, state arts agencies, funders, and others to direct resources to increase the likelihood that all students will benefit from an education that includes the arts.

Although arts education is designated to be part of a well-rounded education by the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#), the statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS) that collect arts data are uneven across the states. As a consequence, these data are not easily accessed by policy-makers and researchers for the purposes of drawing conclusions or making local, multi-state, or national comparisons.

To accomplish the project goals, an organization will be engaged to provide states with technical expertise, logistical and communications support, and capacity to develop common data standards and common mechanisms for accessing and reporting arts education data (e.g., data agreements, dashboards, reports) by using existing SLDS.

Given the overall goals of the National Endowment for the Arts and other stakeholders,

a deliverable for this project is a data dashboard template or other public-facing mechanism that allows for extraction of state data and the production of reports by state departments of education that address common questions about arts education. We envision funding a pilot grant opportunity, at a future date, to support SLDS data extraction and analysis by state departments of education, in alignment with the tools and training materials developed through this project.

Scope of Work

The purpose of this Program Solicitation is to select an organization (“Cooperator”) to design a structure to support the Statewide Data Infrastructure Project for Arts Education activities as described below. In brief, the Cooperator will:

1. Undertake a readiness assessment of states’ ability to extract, analyze, and report arts education data.
2. Develop written guidance for analyzing and reporting state arts education data.
3. Enter into data sharing agreements with and between states to make publicly available arts education data easily accessible and understandable.
4. Design common mechanisms including data dashboards and reporting templates to be used by the states.
5. Provide information necessary for the development of a comprehensive communications strategy, toolkit(s), and other resources for all stakeholders to engage in data-driven conversations about arts education within the general education community and with the public.
6. Promote the project and disseminate project tools and resources to the states.

Detailed Requirements

The Cooperator will work with the National Endowment for the Arts’ Project Director, and through the National Endowment for the Arts’ Project Director with other agency staff as appropriate, on all aspects of this program. The National Endowment for the Arts’ Project Director will be the Director of Arts Education.

The Cooperator will consult with, and will secure the approval of, the National Endowment for the Arts’ Project Director in carrying out the responsibilities below.

The Cooperator will:

- Refine the plans and schedule of this project that includes: an outline of the components, research methodologies, planning processes, technological

resources, timelines, and possible project partners.

- Undertake a readiness assessment of states' ability to extract, analyze, and report arts education data.
 - Compile a list of states based on categories of readiness to receive funding to pilot SLDS data extraction, analysis, and produce reports at a future date.
- Develop written guidance, such as a guidebook or protocol, for analyzing and reporting state arts education data, including a listing of key terms, definitions, metrics, and variables to be used by state departments of education.
 - Assess all states' engagement with and status of SLDS development.
 - Develop common data standards, including key terms and definitions, and analysis and reporting plans based on stakeholder input.
 - Identify key metrics and variables to be extracted from SLDS based on stakeholder input.
 - Develop training materials and guidance documents for staff from state departments of education to produce reports of SLDS arts education data.
- Enter into data sharing agreements with and between states to make publicly available arts education easily accessible and understandable.
- Design common mechanisms including data dashboards and reporting templates to be used by the states.
 - Engage technology advisors to develop data visualization tools (e.g., data dashboards, reports, etc.) to be used by states. Online tools should have the capacity to extract data from SLDS and other state department of education data sets, generate reports using web-based data dashboards, and utilize other appropriate means to present arts education data at the school, local, district, state, and national levels.
- Provide information necessary for the development of a comprehensive communications strategy, toolkit(s), and other resources for all stakeholders to engage in data-driven conversations about arts education within the general education community and with the public.

- In consultation with the Office of Public Affairs, disseminate project tools and resources to the states.
- In consultation with the National Endowment for the Arts, develop and execute a plan for evaluating project objectives and producing a report of this analysis, including recommendations for how the data collection, extraction, communications, and dissemination processes can be improved.
- Submit all plans and materials to be developed to the National Endowment for the Arts' Project Director for approval. Provide the National Endowment for the Arts' Project Director with project updates in a mutually-agreed-upon format and schedule.
- Follow the Cooperator's approved written procurement policies if consultants or vendors are selected by the Cooperator as part of this project. In addition, the Cooperator's policies must be consistent with all requirements of the Uniform Guidance procurement standards described in 2 CFR 200.318. Consultants or vendors engaged by the Cooperator as part of this project will be required to agree that any information gathered will be used only for the purposes described in the Cooperative Agreement. The Cooperator must seek approval for any consultants or vendors before they are engaged, as well as make payment for all travel arrangements of consultants or vendors selected by the Cooperator as part of this project.
- Obtain any necessary rights, permissions, licenses, and releases as appropriate to the project (the "Rights"). The Rights may include, but are not limited to, permissions for audio, video, visual images, music, and/or data licensing. If relevant, the National Endowment for the Arts' Project Director will coordinate discussions or meetings between the Cooperator and the Office of General Counsel to ensure that the rights secured meet the National Endowment for the Arts' needs. The National Endowment for the Arts reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to determine whether the Rights provided are satisfactory to it. The Cooperator accepts sole responsibility, and will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the National Endowment for the Arts from, any liability arising from deficient Rights and/or the Cooperator's warrants or statements about the Rights. Copies of the permissions/releases must be provided to the National Endowment for the Arts in accordance with the requirements provided by the Office of General Counsel.
- No later than 90 days after the completion or termination of the Cooperative Agreement, submit to the Grants & Contracts Office and to the National Endowment for the Arts' Project Director, a Final Descriptive Report (FDR), and a Federal Financial Report (FFR), Standard Form 425. The FDR must include recommendations for the future.

Responsibilities of the National Endowment for the Arts' Project Director

The National Endowment for the Arts' Project Director will:

- Work with the Cooperator to refine the plans, schedule, and methodology of this project, involving the Office of Research & Analysis as appropriate.
- Approve any staff, consultants, (sub)contractors, or partner organizations that the Cooperator proposes to have work on this project.
- Approve all the deliverables including the design and reporting templates.
- Monitor project activities and participate in activities as appropriate.
- Review and approve all plans and materials to disseminate project work products.
- Work with the Cooperator to refine, review and approve communication and promotion input and plans.
- With the Office of Research & Analysis, review and approve all evaluation reports on the project.
- Act as liaison between the Cooperator and other National Endowment for the Arts staff (e.g., General Counsel, Public Affairs) that might be involved in the project.

Estimated Schedule

The Cooperative Agreement resulting from this Program Solicitation can start no earlier than October 1, 2017. The National Endowment for the Arts will work with the Cooperator to identify dates related to specific project activities before the Cooperative Agreement is finalized.

Award Information

Cooperative Agreement Amount

The National Endowment for the Arts expects to award one Cooperative Agreement of up to \$500,000, contingent upon the availability of funds.

The Cooperative Agreement requires nonfederal matching funds. The level of cost share/matching funds may be negotiated. These matching funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and in-kind, third-party contributions. Any project costs beyond the amount above must be covered from sources other than the National Endowment for the Arts.

The time of directors/managers of arts education at state education agencies cannot be used as match for this project.

Period of Performance

This Cooperative Agreement may begin no earlier than October 1, 2017, and may extend for up to 24 months.

An organization may not receive more than one National Endowment for the Arts award for the same costs during the same or an overlapping period of performance. In addition, different awardees may not receive federal funds for the same project costs during the same or an overlapping period of performance.

We may enter into subsequent Cooperative Agreements with the organization selected as a result of this Program Solicitation. See "Subsequent Cooperative Agreements" below.

Applicant Eligibility

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; units of state or local government; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply. Regional arts organizations (RAOs) and state arts agencies (SAAs) are eligible to apply.

The applicant must have experience working with and knowledge of the state education agency environment and the education data systems utilized by these entities at the time of application.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- Meet the National Endowment for the Arts' "**Legal Requirements**" at the time of application.
- Have submitted acceptable Final Report packages by the due date(s) for all National Endowment for the Arts award(s) previously received.

An organization may submit only one proposal under this program solicitation.

You may apply to other National Endowment for the Arts funding opportunities, including Art Works, in addition to the Arts Education Data Project for States. In each case, the request must be for a **distinctly different project**.

How to Prepare and Submit an Application

You are required to submit your application electronically through Grants.gov, the federal government's online application system. **The Grants.gov system must receive your validated and accepted application no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 12, 2017.** We strongly recommend that you submit by April 2, 2017 to give yourself ample time to resolve any problems that you might encounter.

Submitting an application is a two-step process:

1. Before you submit through Grants.gov for the first time, you must be registered. This is a multi-step process for which you should allow at least two weeks. Registration must be completed before you can apply. See "[Get Registered](#)" for details. If you have already registered with Grants.gov, renew/verify your registration with Grants.gov and make sure that all of your information is current before you apply. See "Apply Electronically Through Grants.gov" on pages 10-17 for further instructions.
2. Follow the detailed instructions for submitting items such as the application narrative, bios, project budget, and supporting information in the "How to Prepare and Submit an Application" section on pages 17-19.

Application Review

Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:

Artistic excellence, which includes the:

- Quality and creativity of the proposed approach to this program.
- Degree to which the proposal demonstrates a sound understanding of the concept and practices of longitudinal data collection in education.

Artistic merit, which includes the:

- Potential of the project to result in resources and materials that the National Endowment for the Arts, stakeholders, and the general public can use to better understand arts education delivery at the local, state, and national level.
- Experience working with, assessing, and knowledge of the state education agency environment and the education data systems utilized by these entities, including experience in preparing written guidance on education data collection.
- Experience in developing and administering data sharing agreements with and between states.
- Ability to carry out the project based on such factors as the appropriateness of the budget, the organization's capacity to carry out a large project of national scope with matching requirements, the quality and clarity of the goals

and design, the resources involved, and the qualifications of the project's personnel.

- Quality of any proposed project partners.
- Proposed strategy for promoting and providing broad visibility for the program.

Proposals are reviewed by an advisory panel. Panel recommendations are forwarded to the National Council on the Arts, which then makes recommendations to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Chairman makes the final decisions on all awards. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified about the selection of a Cooperator in July 2017.

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

Travel Policy

Travel costs – including lodging, meals, and incidental expenses – must be reasonable and allowable in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.474 as applicable. These costs must not exceed:

- Travel charges normally allowed by the applicant's institutional policy. (The selected organization must submit a copy of this policy, if it exists, to the Grants & Contracts Office before a Cooperative Agreement can be finalized.)
- In the absence of an institutional policy on travel costs, costs established in the government-wide Federal Travel Regulation.

No federal or matching funds can be used to support members of the National Council on the Arts or federal staff travel.

Crediting Requirement

The Cooperator must clearly acknowledge support from the National Endowment for the Arts in all material related to this project. We will provide the Cooperator with specific requirements for this acknowledgment.

Subsequent Cooperative Agreements

The National Endowment for the Arts may enter into up to four subsequent Cooperative Agreements with the recipient of this Cooperative Agreement. Any such future Cooperative Agreements, however, would be subject to agency priorities, the availability of funds, Cooperator performance, and the agency's regular review process.

General Terms and Conditions

National Endowment for the Arts Cooperative Agreements are subject to the [General Terms and Conditions for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Organizations](#).

Project Reporting and Evaluation

Through this program we intend to achieve the following objective: *Learning: (Lifelong learning in the arts)*. If an award is received, the Cooperator also will be asked to provide evidence of those results. Before applying, please review the [reporting requirements](#).

Agency Contacts

If you have questions about programmatic requirements, contact: Ayanna Hudson, Director of Arts Education, 202/682-5515, HUDSONA@arts.gov.

If you have questions about award administration, contact: Nicki Jacobs, Director of Grants & Contracts, 202/682-5403, JACOBSN@arts.gov.

[REMINDER: If you have questions about your Grants.gov registration or the mechanics of getting your application through the Grants.gov system, you should contact Grants.gov, not the National Endowment for the Arts. Call the Grants.gov help desk at 800-518-4726, e-mail support@grants.gov, or consult the information posted on the Grants.gov website at [Support](#). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week.]

Reporting Burden

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at an average of 20 hours per response including 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 Program Solicitations 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.
NOTE: Applicants are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management & Budget (OMB) control number.

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OMB No. 3135
Expires 12/31/2019

Apply Electronically Through Grants.gov

Organizations are required to submit their applications electronically through Grants.gov, the federal government's online application system.

The Grants.gov system must receive your validated and accepted application no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 12, 2017. We strongly recommend that you submit your application by April 2, 2017 to give yourself ample time to resolve any problems that you might encounter. The National Endowment for the Arts will not accept late applications.

Register or Renew/Verify Your Registration with Grants.gov

It is your organization's responsibility to create and maintain a regularly updated registration with Grants.gov. This includes registration with the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM), where your organization's information must be renewed annually. **Finalize a new or renew an existing registration at least two weeks before the application deadline.** This should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise with Grants.gov or SAM. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application.

If your organization is not yet registered, go to Grants.gov's [Get Registered](#). **Allow a minimum of two weeks for this multi-step, one-time process.** If your organization already has registered, **renew your registration with SAM and verify that your registration with Grants.gov is current.**

If you have problems with registration:

- SAM Federal Service Desk: Call 1-866-606-8220 or see the information posted on the SAM website at [SAM User Help](#).
- Grants.gov Contact Center: Call 1-800-518-4726, e-mail 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.

Maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register or renew at least two weeks before the deadline.

You do not need to complete the registration process to download the application package and begin to prepare your material (see below). However, you will need your

Grants.gov Username and Password that you obtain during the registration process to submit your application.

Registration Tips:

- **Register early.** Registration is by far the hardest part of the whole process. Don't put it off to the last minute. Grants.gov advises that registration usually takes up to 5 business days but it can take longer; we recommend that you allow at least two weeks. For help, call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726, e-mail 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.
- **Be extremely careful when entering your registration information and make sure your information on file with the entities involved is correct and consistent.** In the second step of the registration process, your information will be validated with the IRS and Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). If your information doesn't match exactly -- like having a comma in your organization's name on file with the IRS, but not with D&B -- it can snag your registration.
- **Make sure your registration information is up to date.** Your organization's System for Award Management (SAM) registration -- part of the Grants.gov registration process -- must be renewed every year. SAM will alert your organization's SAM Point of Contact when it is time for renewal. You can check your current SAM registration status by entering your DUNS number at "[Search SAM](#)" at www.sam.gov. Also verify your registration with Grants.gov and make sure it is current before you apply, especially if your e-mail address has changed.
- **Even if you aren't registered, you can work on an electronic application.** While you need to be registered in order to submit an application, you don't need to be registered (or an AOR) in order to work on one.

Creating your application:

- **Review the Grants.gov software requirements.** You must have a version of Adobe Reader that is supported by Grants.gov installed on your computer in order to access, complete, and submit applications. Non-compatible versions of Adobe Reader or other Adobe products will lead to errors and prevent you from submitting your application. If more than one computer will be involved in the preparation of the application package, ensure that the same version of Adobe Reader is used.
- **Yes, the DUNS is important.** The DUNS you enter on the SF-424 form must match exactly the DUNS you used when you registered with SAM. If it doesn't match -- even if you just transpose two digits -- we won't get your application because the Grants.gov system will kick it back to you. If your organization has more than one DUNS (many do), make sure you're using the right one for applying via Grants.gov.
- **You're the only one who can ensure that your application is complete.** Yes, the Check Package for Errors function on the forms will tell you if you missed a

required field but it can't tell you if your application was validated and accepted by Grants.gov. See below.

Submitting your application:

- Submit your application by April 2, 2017 to give yourself ample time to resolve any problems that you might encounter. You take a significant risk by waiting until the day of the deadline to submit.
- **Just because Grants.gov received your application doesn't mean it's been accepted.** Ensure that your application was validated and accepted by the Grants.gov system. Go to [Track My Application](#) to track the validation and progress of your application submission through Grants.gov. There are several reasons applications may not be validated. Maybe there was a problem with the DUNS (see above). Bottom line: Don't wait until just before the deadline to submit. If you turn off your computer right after submitting, you may not learn the application was kicked back until too late. Give yourself some extra time to make adjustments and resubmit, if necessary.
- **Sometimes the problem isn't Grants.gov or you, it's your computer.** You'll need to work with your own IT administrator to fix the problem. It may be due to the presets on your computer or your Internet Service Provider. If your IT administrator isn't available, just try submitting from another computer and see if that works. Another reason to submit early!

Download the Application Package

1. Verify your software.

You must have a version of Adobe Reader that is supported by Grants.gov installed on your computer before you download your application package from Grants.gov. Non-compatible versions of Adobe Reader or other Adobe products will lead to errors and prevent you from submitting your application. If more than one computer will be involved in the preparation of the application package, ensure that the same version of Adobe Reader is used.

Please go to "[Recommended Software](#)" to see the compatible versions of Adobe Reader or to download and install Adobe Reader. Please see important information about versions of Adobe Reader DC [here](#).

2. Access the application package on Grants.gov by clicking on the link below:

DOWNLOAD

[Funding Opportunity Number: NEAPS1701]

This will bring you to the "Selected Grant Applications for Download" screen.

Download the application package and follow the instructions below. **It is not necessary to download the instructions from Grants.gov** as you will merely be directed back to the instructions in this document.

Do not open a Grants.gov "Workspace" environment to create, prepare, or submit your application materials.

3. When you download the application package, the Grants.gov "Grant Application Package" screen will open. Click on the "Save" button and **save the application package to a location on your computer or network where you can find it readily**. Save your application each time that you work on it. You will get the message: "The File already exists. Replace existing file?" Click "Yes" to ensure that you always save the most recent version.
4. You can access each Mandatory form by clicking on it OR you can scroll down your screen and you will come to each form in succession.

The two forms are:

- **Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organizational Form (SF-424)**: This form asks for basic information about your organization and project. Complete this form first. Data entered here will populate fields of other forms where possible. Instructions for completing this form begin on page 14.
- **Attachments Form**: This is not a form in the conventional sense, but rather a place to attach additional items (e.g., your application narrative and the Project Budget Form) that must be included for your Grants.gov application package to be considered complete. Instructions for completing this form begin on page 16.

Submit Your Electronic Application

1. Check the size of your electronic application. The total size should not exceed 10 MB.
2. To begin the submission process, click the "**Save & Submit**" button. [This button will not become active (and turn from light to dark gray) until you have saved your application with all required fields completed. Clicking this button will prompt you to save your application package one last time. When asked if you want to replace the existing file, click "Yes." You will then be reconnected to Grants.gov and the Internet.] **You will be prompted to provide your Grants.gov Username and Password that you obtained during registration.**

3. Click the "**Login**" button. This will bring you to the "Application Submission Verification and Signature" screen, which provides a summary of the Funding Opportunity for which you are applying. Click the "Sign and Submit Application" button to complete the process. **Be certain that you are satisfied with your application before you click this button. No revisions to your application are possible through Grants.gov once it is submitted.**

If you have difficulty submitting, go to [Adobe Reader Error Messages](#) or [Applicant Resources](#) for several tools and documents to help you.

4. Ensure that your application was validated and accepted by the Grants.gov system. Go to [Track My Application](#) to track the validation and progress of your application submission through Grants.gov.

Application Instructions

For a complete application, follow Steps 1 and 2 below:

Step 1: Fill out the Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organizational Form (SF-424)

NOTE: All asterisked (*) items and yellow fields on this form are required and must be completed before you will be able to submit the form. Do not type in all capital letters when completing the form. Enter information directly into the form. Do not copy from an old application package or another document and paste into the form.

- 1. Name of Federal Agency: Pre-populated.**
- 2. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: Pre-populated.**
- 3. Date Received: This will be filled automatically with the date that you submit your application; leave blank.**
- 4. Funding Opportunity Number: Pre-populated.**
- 5. Applicant Information:**
 - a. Legal Name:** Enter the legal name of your organization as it appears in the current IRS 501(c)(3) status letter or in the official document that identifies the organization as a unit of state or local government, or as a federally recognized tribal community or tribe. (Do not use your organization's popular name, if different.)
 - b. Address:** Use Street 1 for your street address or post office box number, whichever is used for your U.S. Postal Service mailing address. Street 2 is not a required field and should be used **only** when a Suite or Room Number or other similar information is a necessary part of your address. Do **not** use Street 2 to give a second address for your organization.

In the Zip/Postal Code box, enter your **full 9-digit zip code that was assigned by the U.S. Postal Service.** (You may look it up at www.usps.com/zip4/.)

d. Type of Applicant: Select the item that best characterizes your organization from the menu in the first drop down box. Additional choices are optional.

e. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): Enter the 9-digit number that was assigned by the Internal Revenue Service; do not use a Social Security Number.

f. Organizational DUNS: All organizational applicants for federal funds must have a DUNS number, which is recognized as the universal standard for identifying organizations worldwide. **The number that you enter here must agree with the number (either 9 or 13 digits) that you used with the SAM (System for Award Management) as part of the Grants.gov registration. Otherwise, your application will not be validated by Grants.gov and will be rejected.**

g. Congressional District: Enter the number of the Congressional District where the applicant organization is located. Use the following format: 2 character State Abbreviation-3 character District Number. For example, if your organization is located in the 5th Congressional District of California, enter "CA-005." If your state has a single At-Large Representative or your territory has a single Delegate, enter your two-digit state/territory abbreviation and "-000." If you need help determining your district, go to www.house.gov and use the "Find Your Representative" tool.

6. Project Information:

a. Project Title: Enter Statewide Data Infrastructure Project.

b. Project Description: Provide a two or three sentence summary description.

Please note:

This field on the form has a character limit of 1,000. Even if you have less than 1,000 characters, Grants.gov may translate special characters (e.g., apostrophes) in a way that will cause your application to be rejected. This can happen if you copy from an old application package or another document and paste into the form. We strongly encourage you to write a succinct project description and double check the number of characters.

c. Proposed Project Start Date/End Date: Enter a start date no earlier than October 1, 2017. Your project may extend for up to 24 months.

7. Project Director: Provide the requested information for the Project Director. Select a Prefix (e.g., Ms., Mr.) even though this is not a required field. Provide contact information, including an e-mail address that will be valid throughout the proposed period of performance.

8. Primary Contact/Grant Administrator: Provide the requested information for the individual who should be contacted on all matters involving this application and the administration of any Cooperative Agreement that may be awarded. Select a Prefix even though this is not a required field.

If this individual is the same as the Project Director, you may check the "Same as Project Director" box and not repeat information that you have already provided in Item 7. (If the Primary Contact/Grant Administrator is the same as the Authorizing Official, please complete all items under both 8 and 9 even though there will be some repetition.)

9. Authorized Representative: Enter the requested information for the AOR (Authorized Organization Representative) who will be submitting this application to Grants.gov. Select a Prefix even though this is not a required field. The AOR must have the legal authority to obligate your organization. By clicking the "I Agree" box at the top of Item 9, this individual will be certifying compliance with relevant federal requirements on your organization's behalf. (These requirements can be found in the "**Assurance of Compliance**" section.) The "Signature of Authorized Representative" and "Date Signed" boxes will be populated by Grants.gov upon submission of the application.

Step 2: Complete and Attach Required Items to the Attachments Form

This "form" is not a form in the conventional sense. Rather, it is a place to attach documents that you have completed and saved elsewhere on your computer.

Several important points:

1. Attachments 2 is a fillable form; you will link to find it. This form can be filled in, saved to your computer, and attached without the need for special software or conversion to PDF. Please be sure you are using Adobe Reader (version 9 or higher) when filling out our PDF forms.

Note to Mac users: Your computer may be set to open PDF files using Preview (you can tell which program is being used to view a PDF file by looking at the left-most item in the menu bar). Please verify that you are using Adobe Reader and not Preview. If you don't have Adobe Reader installed, you can download it here: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

2. All other attachments are documents (e.g., narratives, bios) that you will develop in accordance with the instructions provided. **These items must be submitted as PDF files.**

Do not create PDFs of your electronic documents by scanning. In the past, some applicants have printed their electronic documents and then scanned them,

saving the scan in PDF format. PDFs created this way are much larger, and of lower quality, than PDFs created by the methods we recommend. **Do not embed non-printable media files (video and/or sound) in your PDF documents.** Static images (e.g., pictures) are acceptable. Please do not enable any document security settings or password-protect any PDF file you submit to us.

3. No attachment should be more than 2 MB. For non-form documents, label pages clearly with the name of the item (e.g., Application Narrative) and your organization's legal name. **Leave a margin of at least one inch at the top, bottom, and sides of all pages. Do not reduce type below 12 point font size.** Do not type in all capital letters. Within each attachment, number pages sequentially; place numbers on the bottom right hand corner of each page. **Excess pages will be removed and not be reviewed.**

4. **Name your files as indicated below and attach them in the proper order.** Limit file names to 50 or fewer characters and use only the following characters when naming your attachments: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore (_), hyphen (-), space, and period. If you do not follow this rule, your application may be rejected. Please note that you cannot change the name of a file on the Attachments Form. Therefore make certain that each file is named correctly **before** you attach it.

When you open the Grants.gov Attachments Form, you will find 15 attachment buttons. By clicking on a button, you will be able to choose the PDF file from your computer that you wish to attach. Please attach the proper file to the proper button as listed below.

How to Prepare and Submit an Application

The Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1: To this button attach a **narrative (5-page maximum)** that addresses the points below. The file name should indicate the name of your organization or a recognizable acronym followed by "Narrative" (e.g., "ABCOrgNarrative").

The information that you provide will be reviewed in accordance with the “Review Criteria” for this initiative. Please organize your response a), b), c), etc., and use the boldfaced language below as a heading for each item.

- a) Your organization’s **mission and principal activities**, as well as the date it was incorporated, if applicable. Describe your organization’s previous experience working with and knowledge of the state education agency environment and the education data systems utilized by these entities, including experience in preparing written guidance on education data collection and developing and administering data sharing agreements with and between states. Describe your organization’s experience in carrying out large, national projects with matching requirements.
- b) **Proposed project activities**. Be as specific as possible. Describe your plans and methodology for accomplishing all aspects of the project as detailed in the Scope of Work/Detailed Requirements section of this Program Solicitation. Discuss any proposed partners or special resources that might be needed.
- c) **Schedule** of key project planning and implementation dates.
- d) Your strategies for **promoting and disseminating** the project to engage and receive input from stakeholders including the arts and education fields.
- e) Your plans to develop and execute an **evaluation** of the project.

ATTACHMENT 2: To this button, attach **brief bios** (at least two per page) for the key personnel to be involved in the project. The file name should indicate the name of your organization or a recognizable acronym followed by “Bios” (e.g., “ABCOrgBios”).

ATTACHMENT 3: To this button, attach the completed **Project Budget Form**, Pages 1 and 2.

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD [\[FORM\]](#) [\[INSTRUCTIONS\]](#)

The file name should indicate the name of your organization or a recognizable acronym followed by “Budget” (e.g., “ABCOrgBudget”).

You may request an award amount of up to \$500,000 over a two-year period.

ATTACHMENT 4: To this button, attach any additional supporting information that you think necessary. (Optional) If you link to online material, list the URL for the page to be shown and include any necessary navigation paths and any information on required plug-ins. Do not submit a website that requires a password or requires material to be downloaded (e.g., Dropbox). The file name should indicate the name of your organization or a recognizable acronym followed by “SupportInfo” (e.g.,

“ABCOrgSupportInfo”).

Leave all remaining Attachment buttons blank.

If you try to view an attachment by clicking the "View Attachment" button on the Attachments Form but are unsuccessful, check the bottom of the screen for the message: "Pop-ups were blocked on this page." If you see this message, press "Ctrl" and "View Attachment" to see the attachment.