

National Endowment for the Arts

Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants Serving Native Communities

Grants for Arts Projects & Challenge America

1. How can I confirm my tribe or organization is eligible for support? How do I know which artistic discipline is most suitable for my project?

Applicants may consult with NEA staff to verify their eligibility or discuss which artistic discipline may be the best fit before preparing an application. Please reach out to us at NativeArts@arts.gov.

2. Are federally recognized tribes eligible to apply?

Yes! Additionally, in keeping with federal policies of [Tribal Self Governance](#) and [Self-Determination](#), we may provide support for a project with a primary audience restricted to enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe.

3. Are non-federally recognized tribes eligible to apply?

Yes! As long as the applicant is a nonprofit, tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) organization with three years of arts programming at the time of application. While the NEA may support projects for non-federally recognized tribes and Indigenous groups, project participation cannot be restricted to only tribal members.

4. Are Native Hawaiian groups eligible to apply?

Yes! As long as the applicant is a nonprofit, tax-exempt (501(c)(3)) organization, they are eligible to apply with three years of arts programming history at the time of application. While the NEA may support projects for Native Hawaiians, project participation cannot be restricted to only Native Hawaiians.

5. What types of art projects are eligible for support?

A wide variety of projects for the community are eligible. Examples include commissions of artworks, artist residencies in schools or cultural organizations, projects about traditional lifeways for tribal communities or endangered languages, exhibits, radio broadcasts, festivals, concerts, performances, plays, powwows, etc.

6. Is funding available to support art markets?

No. The NEA cannot support expenses related to commercial activities, including sales of artwork, concessions, food/beverages, T-shirts/merchandise, or other items for resale. We also cannot support staff time related to such activities. However, we can support complementary performances, workshops, and other programming at an arts market, as long as the expenses do not support the resale of artwork or other items.

7. Can I apply for several smaller projects my tribe undertakes? I'm not sure we have any one, discreet project that would cost \$20,000.

Yes! While it's important to remember funding is project-based, your request can include a series of programs or activities. The NEA requires a minimum of \$20,000 in project costs for each application.

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8. What are the NEA match/cost share requirements?

NEA grants require at least a 1-to-1 cost share/match of non-federal funds. For example, an organization receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Arts Endowment must provide at least \$10,000 toward the project from non-federal sources, for a \$20,000 project total.

The cost share/match can come from a number of sources such as the organization's own earned revenue, individual donations, corporate contributions, other grants (as long as the funds don't originate from federal funds), and third party, in-kind donations and contributions of goods or services.

9. What is an in-kind cost share/match and what are the NEA requirements for in-kind matches?

In-kind cost share/match refers to donated space, supplies, volunteer services, etc., that are donated by individuals or organizations (third-party) other than the applicant-of-record.

10. Can Indirect Costs be included in a grant application and/or project budget?

Yes, you can include Indirect Costs in your application's budget. Indirect Costs are overhead, administrative, or general operating expenses that are not readily identifiable with, or are difficult to assign to, a specific project. Options include:

- *Use of a reasonable figure for "Overhead and Administrative Costs" as a direct cost line item, **OR***
 - *Use of the de minimis indirect cost rate of up to 10% (for applicants without a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement,)*
- OR**
- *Use of a federally negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (ICRA).*

Applicants for NEA funding are never required to include Indirect Costs in a project budget nor are they required to have a federally negotiated ICRA.

11. Can you clarify the eligibility rule about the required three years of arts programming history?

Applicants, including federally recognized tribes, are required to have a 3-year history of arts programming to apply for most NEA grants. Eligible arts programming may be related to language preservation, elders passing lifeways to younger generations, and other culture related activities.

12. Who from the tribe can help manage NEA applications and awards?

Applicants can and are encouraged to list up to three contacts—authorized representative (AOR), project director, and primary contact. The AOR must have the legal authority to obligate your tribe as compliant with relevant federal requirements outlined in the [Assurance of Compliance](#). The project director is the person responsible for carrying out the majority of project activities included in the narrative and project budget. The primary contact is the individual who should be contacted on matters involving the application and administration of any grant that may be awarded.