
How to Prepare and Submit an Application

SIDE BAR NAVIGATION TOOLS:

Using Grants.gov

[Register with Grants.gov](#)

[Download the application package using Adobe Reader](#)

[Submit your electronic application](#)

[Grants.gov Tips](#)

Application Instructions

What makes a complete application

Step 1

Fill out the Application for Federal Assistance SF 424 – Individual

Step 2 Complete and attach items required for the Attachments Form (resumes, descriptions of work, etc.)

Step 3

Submit items in Steps 1-2 electronically through Grants.gov

Application Deadline: March 3, 2011

These application guidelines provide all of the information that you need to submit an application. We urge you to read these instructions in their entirety before you begin the application process. You also may want to keep these instructions open in a window in your computer as they contain helpful links to information that you will need as you complete your application.

In addition to these instructions, you should periodically check the [Grants.gov blog and homepage](#) for tips, updates, and alerts.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Electronic application through Grants.gov is MANDATORY.

- 1) Register with Grants.gov. Registration is a one-time process, which can take a day or more to complete.
- 2) Verify that you have a version of Adobe Reader that is supported by Grants.gov installed on your computer **before** you download your new application package from Grants.gov.
- 3) Submit your application **no later than 10 days** prior to the deadline 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.
 - The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (Phone: 1-800-518-4726.)
 - Submit your application outside of Grants.gov's hours of heaviest usage, generally 12 noon to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time.
 - **The Arts Endowment will not accept late applications.**

The Grants.gov system must receive your application no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on March 3, 2011.

If you are unable to submit your application electronically, you may request a waiver. A waiver will be granted for the following reasons only:

- Internet access is not available within a 30-mile radius of your address.
- Disability prevents you from submitting your application electronically.

Your waiver request must be in writing and must be received (not postmarked) at the Arts Endowment at least three weeks before the application deadline. [Click here for more information on waivers.](#)

WAIVER POP UP BOX:

Requesting a waiver: Literature Fellowships

If you are unable to submit your application electronically, you may request a waiver. A waiver will be granted for the following reasons only:

- Internet access is not available within a 30-mile radius of your address.
- Disability prevents you from submitting your application electronically.

Your waiver request must be in writing and must be received (not postmarked) at the Arts Endowment at least three weeks before the application deadline, or no later than 5:30 p.m., Eastern Time, on February 10, 2011. You may fax your request to 202/682-5660 or send it to:

Deputy Chairman for Programs and Partnerships
Grants.gov Waiver Request
Room 705
National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506-0001

The National Endowment for the Arts continues to experience delays in the delivery of First-Class mail. Please consider faxing your waiver request or using a commercial delivery service, particularly if you are sending your request close to the receipt deadline.

In the event a waiver is granted, your complete paper application package must be postmarked (or show other proof of mailing) no later than March 3, 2011.

Using Grants.gov

Register with Grants.gov [\[Back to Top\]](#)

NOTE: Grants.gov will be implementing new security requirements for the use of the Grants.gov system. Among the changes, applicants will be required to change their passwords every 90 days. See www.grants.gov for more details.

It is your responsibility to create and maintain a registration with Grants.gov.

Registration is a one-time process, which can take a day or more to complete. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE APPLICATION DEADLINE TO REGISTER to allow time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in your inability to submit your application.

To register, click: [Individual Registration](#). You will be asked to provide the **Funding Opportunity Number** of the grant. Enter **2011NEA03LFCW**. If you have problems with registration contact Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726, e-mail support@grants.gov, or consult the information posted on the Grants.gov Web site at [Help](#). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register 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 in the final step of the registration process to submit your application.

Download the Application Package [\[Back to Top\]](#)

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 "Download Software" to see the compatible versions of Adobe Reader or to download and install Adobe Reader.

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

DOWNLOAD

[Funding Opportunity Number 2011NEA03LFCW]

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.

3. When you download the application package, the Grants.gov "Grant Application Package" screen will open. Click on the "Save" button at the top of the form and **save the application package to a location on your computer or network where you can find it readily**. Save your application each time 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. In the "**Mandatory Documents**" box, you will see two forms. You must move these forms to the "Mandatory Documents for Submission" box before you can open them. Once moved, the two forms merge into a single document. You can access each form by clicking on it to highlight it and then clicking on the "Open Form" box OR you can scroll down your screen and you will come to each form in succession.

The forms are:

- [Application for Federal Assistance SF 424 - Individual Form](#)
- [Attachments Form](#)

Submit Your Electronic Application [\[Back to Top\]](#)

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.** (REMINDER: You must have successfully completed the [registration process](#) in order to receive your Grants.gov Username and Password.)
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. After the Arts Endowment retrieves your application from Grants.gov, log in to the Grants.gov system by using your Username and Password to receive your Agency Tracking Number (this will be the Arts Endowment-assigned application number).

Additional Help

For additional help on how to use Grants.gov, please see the Grants.gov Web site at **Help**. You also can send e-mail to the Grants.gov Contact Center at support@grants.gov or call them at 1-800-518-4726 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For specific help on how to complete your application, please review the instructions in these guidelines or contact the Literature staff at 202/682-5034 or LitFellowships@arts.gov.

Application Instructions

For a complete application, follow Steps 1-3 below

A complete application consists of:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Attachments Form to which you have attached:
 - Literature Fellowships Application Supplemental Information Form
 - Manuscript material: 20-30 pages of sample text
 - Cover page
 - Summary of applicant publications

Applications that are determined to be incomplete will be rejected without panel review.

Step 1: Fill out the Application for Federal Assistance SF 424 - Individual

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. Name and Contact Information:

Applicants using pen names must list their legal name here. All transactions with the Arts Endowment must be made using the legal name. Contact information must be valid through December 2011. You must notify us of any changes.

b. Address:

Enter information for your permanent address. Information must be valid through December 2011.

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 part of your address. Do **not** use Street 2 to provide a second address.

In the Zip/Postal Code box, enter the **full 9-digit zip code** that was assigned by the U.S. Postal Service. If you do not know your full zip code, you may look it up at www.usps.com/zip4/.

c. Citizenship Status:

If you are a permanent resident of the United States, provide your Alien Registration Number.

d. Congressional District of Applicant: Enter the Congressional District that corresponds to your permanent address. Use the following format: 2 character State Abbreviation-3 character District Number. For example, if you live 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 2 character state/territory abbreviation and "-000." If you need help determining your district, please visit the House of Representatives Web site at www.house.gov and use the "Find Your Representative" tool.

6. Project Information:

a. Project Title: Leave blank.

b. Project Description: In two or three sentences, briefly describe how you see your work being advanced by this fellowship. This may include writing, research, travel, etc.

c. Proposed Project Start Date/End Date: Enter your preferred beginning and ending dates. The beginning date must fall between January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2013, and the period of support may extend up to two years.

7. Signature Block:

By clicking the "I Agree" box, you are certifying that your application is true and correct to the best of your knowledge and that you are in compliance with relevant federal requirements that can be found in the [Assurance of Compliance](#) section of these

guidelines. The "Signature" 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

The "Attachments 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.

1. Attachment 1 (Literature Fellowships Application Supplemental Information) is a fillable form; you will find a link to it. This form can be filled in, saved to your computer, and attached without the need for special software or conversion to PDF.
2. Attachments 2 - 4 are documents that you will develop in accordance with the instructions provided. **These items must be submitted as PDF (portable document format) files.**

These non-form documents can be created using any word processing software. When you have completed the document, save it to your computer and convert it to PDF before attaching. If you don't already have software to convert files to PDF, there are many low-cost and free software packages that can do this. To learn more, go to [PDF Conversion Programs](#).

Please make sure to convert your documents into PDF format in line with the guidance above. **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.

No attachment should be more than 2 MB.

3. For non-form documents, label pages clearly with the name of the item (e.g., Summary of Applicant Publications) and your 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. Number pages sequentially. Excess pages will be removed and not be reviewed.
4. Name your files as indicated below and attach them in the proper order. 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.

The Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1: LITERATURE FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FORM

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

To this button, attach the **Literature Fellowships Application Supplemental Information form**. We collect this information to inform the agency about the composition of the application pool. This information is not provided to panelists, nor is it taken into consideration for the awarding of grants. The file name should be your last name followed by "SupplInfo.pdf" (e.g., JonesSupplInfo.pdf).

Under **Category Under Which Support is Requested**, check "Fellowships for Creative Writers." Then choose "Fiction" or "Creative Nonfiction."

ATTACHMENT 2: MANUSCRIPT SAMPLE

To this button, attach one copy of your manuscript sample. The file name should be your last name followed by "Manuscript.pdf."

Your manuscript sample must be minimum of 20 to a maximum of 30 typescript, double-spaced pages of:

- **Fiction** (e.g., short story, short fiction, vignette, graphic fiction, novel excerpt, hypertextual fiction)
- or*
- **Creative nonfiction** (e.g., essay, memoir, *belles-lettres*, creative nonfiction, literary journalism)

Please note that applicants may submit one or more writing samples as their manuscript, but the total pages cannot exceed 30 pages. All samples must be in the same genre (fiction or creative nonfiction).

Your manuscript sample must be:

1. **From work that you have written in the time period that establishes your eligibility, and for which you have sole artistic responsibility.** You may submit published work, unpublished work, or work in progress. Do not indicate whether or not the material has been published.

2. **In the literary genre in which you establish your eligibility** (e.g., creative nonfiction).
3. **Completely free of your name, initials, address, or any other marks that could identify you.**
4. **Labeled to indicate title and genre of the sample.** At the top of every page, include the page number in the upper right corner and state the titles of stories, novels, etc. Below the title, indicate the genre and whether the sample is an excerpt (e.g., short story, short story excerpt, novel excerpt, memoir).
5. **In typescript and clearly readable.** Use a 12 point font and margins of at least one inch at the top, bottom, and sides of all pages. Manuscripts must be double-spaced. Do not submit more than the maximum number of pages that are allowed; excess pages will be removed.

Remember to convert your manuscript into PDF in line with the guidance above (Step 2: Complete and Attach Required Items to the Attachments Form). **Do not create PDFs of your electronic documents by scanning.**

ATTACHMENT 3: COVER PAGE

To this button, attach **one copy of an unnumbered cover page** that lists your legal name and address and the title(s) of the work(s) you are submitting. The file name should be your last name followed by "CoverPg.pdf." **Your name, initials, address, or other identifying marks must not appear on any other page of the manuscript material that is submitted.**

ATTACHMENT 4: SUMMARY OF APPLICANT PUBLICATIONS

To this button, attach a **Summary of Applicant Publications** to establish your eligibility (two-page maximum). The file name should be your last name followed by "SummaryPubs.pdf."

List the specific published works that establish your eligibility (see [Eligibility](#) for details). For each publication note:

- Title, author.
- Publisher (including name of magazine or press with physical address, Web address, and phone number).
- Publication date (month and year, or volume/issue).
- ISBN or ISSN number, if a print publication.
- Number of pages of your material.
- Page number or exact URL if published online.

Example:

<p>Title/Author: A Walk in the City/ John Doe Publisher: University Press, 1234 Main St., Springfield, IL, www.up.edu, 123-456-7891 Publication Date/ Volume-Issue: 12/2008/ Vol. 5 Issue 2 ISBN or ISSN: 0000000000 # of pages: 7 Page # or URL: 131-137</p>
<p>Title/Author: "Hidden Moon"/ Flores Paz Publisher: Violet Journal, 44 Spring St., Mesa, AZ, www.violetjournal.org, 333-456-7891 Publication Date/ Volume-Issue: 10/2008/ Vol. 32 Issue 4 (Fall) ISBN or ISSN: n/a # of pages: 5 Page # or URL: www.violetjournal.org/32-4/paz</p>

Upon request, you must provide proof of eligibility to the Arts Endowment in the form of one or more of the following ways:

- a. The title page or cover with your name and the title of the work.
- b. The copyright page with the publisher's information; publication date (month and year); ISBN or ISSN number, if a print publication; or URL, if publication is online only.
- c. The publication's stated selection criteria and editorial policy.

NOTE: When you check the Certification box on the SF 424-Individual form, you are certifying that all parts of your application, *including your summary of the publications that establish your eligibility*, are true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Leave all remaining Attachment buttons blank.

Step 3: Submit Items in Steps 1-2 above electronically through Grants.gov [\[Back to Top\]](#)

Follow the detailed instructions under **"Submit your electronic application"** above.

Reporting Burden

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at an average of 12 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. The Arts Endowment welcomes 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: Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, Room 620, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20506-0001. 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.