

National Endowment for the Arts

Notice of Funding Opportunity: FY27 Partnership Agreement Grants

Grant Program Guidelines: 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)	2027NEA04PA
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)	\$400,000-\$1,500,000

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 funding enables SAAs to respond to the needs identified through public planning undertaken with their constituents, partners, and stakeholders. SAAs are encouraged to review [NEA agency priorities](#) as part of their own strategic planning processes.

Eligibility for Partnership Agreement Grants for SAAs is limited to the fifty state and six jurisdictional arts agencies. All SAAs must apply annually for this funding opportunity.

COMPONENTS OF THIS NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO):

- **GRANT PROGRAM Guidelines (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	June 2026
Application Package Available on Grants.gov	June 2026
Submit Application to Grants.gov	September 29, 2026, 11:59 pm ET
Anticipated notification of recommended funding or rejection	April 2027
Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project	July 1, 2027

State Arts Agencies Program Description

Partnership Agreement grants to SAAs enable the 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 on a nationwide basis that far exceeds federal funding. State government funding 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 the goals and activities determined to be most important to that state. Each state arts agency submits its state arts plan and describes the planning process as part of its Partnership Agreement grant application.

Program Goals & Objectives

State Partnership Agreement grants support 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.

Funds are awarded based on statutory requirements, as described under [Award Amounts & Cost Share](#). SAAs may receive additional funding to advance specific state and federal goals and objectives.

In FY27, these goals and objectives include supporting arts education, folk and traditional arts, Poetry Out Loud, and arts and health. Funding for these priorities is incorporated into the total Partnership Agreement award, which requires a one-to-one cost share.

Arts Education

The NEA envisions a nation where every student is engaged and empowered through an excellent arts education. Partnership Agreement grant funding is intended to respond to the objectives, strategies, and programs that each state arts agency develops based on the state's needs, opportunities, and resources. A state's arts education program might include, but are not limited to, activities such as 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, arts education data initiatives, 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

Folk and traditional arts funding is intended to support living cultural traditions in every state and jurisdiction. 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. Program components might include, but are not

limited to, activities such as fieldwork to identify and document underserved folk and traditional artists; apprenticeship and/or mentorship programs; folk arts in education programs; technical assistance; training and/or professional development; 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.

Arts and Health

Artists, cultural institutions, and arts and cultural participation strengthen our civic infrastructure and contribute to health and wellbeing. NEA funding is available to support arts and cultural projects that contribute to overall health and well-being for individuals and communities by integrating arts and culture with health, including, but not limited to, activities such as partnership building; planning activities; programming; professional development or training; research and evaluation; and/or subaward programs. In FY27, NEA is offering opt-in funding for SAAs to support arts and cultural projects that contribute to overall health and well-being for individuals and communities. Up to \$50,000 in funding for this component is available to SAAs that opt in, subject to availability of NEA funds.

National Endowment for the Arts, Regional, and State Partnership

The 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 invest in the network through State and Regional Partnership Agreement grants 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.

The NEA acknowledges 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 affiliation from one RAO to another, or may choose not to participate as a member of an RAO. Changes to a state's RAO membership must be preceded by at least one full year of planning by all the agencies involved, including the NEA.

Authorizing Statute

The NEA offers this funding opportunity under the authority of 20 U.S.C. § 954.

Eligibility Requirements for State Arts Agencies

The fifty state and six jurisdictional arts agencies are eligible to apply for SAA Partnership Agreement grants. To accept 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

- Meet the NEA's [Legal Requirements](#) at the time of application, including the requirements outlined in section 5, referencing Section 954(g)(2) of the National Endowment for the Arts' authorizing legislation.

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 funding 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 include 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 1-to-1 non-federal cost share to the NEA grant funds.
 - 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 SAA.
- 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 SAA.)

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 SAA must submit its state arts plan as part of its Partnership Agreement grant application.

Subawards

SAA's that subaward NEA funds or cost share funds for the Partnership grant award must:

- Require recipients to provide a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number before issuing a subaward.
- Report awards of \$30,000 or more in federal funds and, if required, information about the compensation of executives related to those grants to [System for Award Management](#) (SAM).
- Base subaward program funding decisions on criteria that include artistic excellence and artistic merit.
- Ensure that all subawards made with federal or cost share funds are in compliance with the General Terms and Conditions for the NEA award, including requirements for pass-through entities as provided under 2 CFR 200.331 (including specific requirements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Civil Rights laws).

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

For full requirements for subawards, see [Appendix A of the Partnership Agreements General Terms and Conditions](#). When applicable, a Partnership Agreement award may also require specific terms and conditions (§ 200.308). Should there be inconsistency between requirements, specific terms and conditions for an award supersede the General Terms and Conditions.

Award Amounts & Cost Share

Award Amounts

All funding will be awarded according to the NEA's statutory requirements, and may include funding for specific priorities such as Arts Education, Folk and Traditional Arts, Arts and Health, and Poetry Out Loud activities, subject to the availability of NEA funds.

Partnership Agreement awards are discretionary awards, and funding amounts are determined through a formulaic process that includes consideration of available funding, previous award levels, current SAA program offerings, and state 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 1-to-1 cost share requirement does not apply to the first \$200,000 of NEA funds (48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), as amended). Eligible agencies must request a waiver from the cost share requirement for amounts above the first \$200,000 of NEA funds.

Period of Performance

Awards are intended to support activities and may begin no earlier than July 1, 2027.

All costs included in the Project Budget, whether paid for with NEA funds or cost share funds, must be expended during the award's period of performance, including all costs associated with subaward activity. Subawards must take place and be closed out during the Partnership Agreement award's period of performance.

Application Contents & Format

Application Instructions

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

Applications Recommended for Funding

Following the tentative funding offer notification (anticipated to be April 2027), all applicants must complete and submit a Partnership Agreement grant budget for NEA review. Instructions and deadlines for providing the budget and other required documents will be included with the offer notification.

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](#) “How to Apply” section provides information about registration, including links to each registration site, and support resources.

Submission Methods

SUBMIT APPLICATION VIA GRANTS.GOV

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. To begin the submission process, access the Grant Opportunity Package on the [Partnership Agreements Grants](#) page, under the “How to Apply” heading.

Contact Information

See the [Contacts](#) page for contact information for NEA staff, Login.gov, SAM, and Grants.gov.

Application Submission Dates and Times

Step	Date
Grant Program Details and Application Instructions Published	June 2026
Application Package Available on Grants.gov	June 2026
Submit Application to Grants.gov	September 29, 2026, 11:59 pm ET
Anticipated notification of recommended funding or rejection	April 2027
Earliest Start Date for Proposed Project	July 1, 2027

Grants.gov must receive your validated application no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 29, 2026.

The NEA suggests 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.

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

Intergovernmental Review

Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact for [Executive Order 12372](#) to determine whether their 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

NEA staff review applications to confirm that eligibility requirements are met. In addition, external reader reviewers will provide comments related to application narrative and state arts plan documents addressing:

- The SAA's operating environment, mission, and goals.
- The SAA's planning process, including:
 - efforts made to engage constituents through a wide variety of means (such as public meetings, surveys, interviews, virtual engagement, and digital communications, as relevant to various constituent groups); and
 - efforts made to include a wide range of constituents 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 constituent engagement during 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 arts plan.
- The SAA's programming, including programs and activities reflected in the state arts plan and as relevant, programs and activities with shared state and federal goals and objectives (FY27: Arts Education, Arts and Health, Folk and Traditional Arts, and Poetry Out Loud). Programming information 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 Chairman of the NEA. The Chairman reviews the Council's recommendations and makes the final decision on all grant awards.

Application Status Updates

Applicants will receive a tentative funding offer or a notice of rejection via email. Refer to the [Application Calendar](#) for expected notification dates. Do not request the status of your application before the listed notification date. Applicants tentatively recommended for funding will receive a preliminary congratulatory message, with a request for required [project and budget updates](#).

Award Notices

Official grant award notification (i.e., a notice of action authorized by the NEA Grants Management Office) is the only legal and valid confirmation of award. This process may take several months depending on factors such as the number of awards to be processed, clarity of submitted project budgets and updates, Congressional appropriations level, etc.

All NEA awards are contingent on maintaining an active SAM registration and compliance with 2 CFR 200, NEA's legislation 20 U.S.C. § 954 and 955, along with other federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders that apply to federal financial assistance awards and established NEA policies. 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, or if the project is not compliant with applicable statutes, regulations, or executive orders.

Risk Review

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

Reporting on Previous Awards

To receive an NEA Partnership Agreement award, the applicant must be in compliance with all reporting requirements for any prior NEA awards, including submission of acceptable annual and final reports.

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 from non-federal funds.

General Terms & Conditions

Federal government-wide and agency-specific requirements that relate to NEA awards are highlighted in our [General Terms & Conditions \(GTC\)](#). The GTCs incorporate the adoption of 2 CFR Part 200 by reference. 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 an 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, including any updates to it.

Crediting Requirement

Recipients must clearly acknowledge NEA support in their programs and related promotional material including publications and websites. Acknowledgments should include the NEA logo wherever possible. In addition, we will provide detailed crediting language for SAAs to use with their own subrecipients.

Project Reporting and Evaluation

If your period of performance is longer than one year, you will be required to submit annual performance and financial reports for each 12-month period of the award.

When a grant is completed, you must submit a final report and answer questions detailing all activities conducted under the State Arts Plan (SAA 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](#).

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 investigates complaints about compliance with accessibility standards as well as other federal civil rights statutes. For further information visit [Civil Rights FAQs for Applicants and Grantees](#), or contact the Office of Civil Rights at 202-682-5454 or civilrights@arts.gov.

Laws Relating to Lobbying (31 U.S.C. 1352)

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/matching 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. (See Application Instructions, Step 2)

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 28 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 TBD