

Legal Requirements

NOTE: This list highlights some of the significant legal requirements that may apply to an applicant or recipient; however, it is not exhaustive. More information regarding these and other legal requirements may be found at Appendix A of the [General Terms & Conditions](#), which set forth the National Policy and Other Legal Requirements, Statutes, Regulations, and Executive Orders that Govern Your Award. There may be other applicable legal requirements that are not listed in this document. It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that you are compliant with all legal, regulatory, and policy requirements applicable to your award.

1. By law, the National Endowment for the Arts may support only those organizations:

- **That are tax-exempt.** Organizations qualifying for this status must meet the following criteria:
 1. No part of net earnings may benefit a private stockholder or individual.
 2. Donations to the organization must be allowable as a charitable contribution under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

For further information, go to the [Internal Revenue Service's \(IRS\) website](#).

- **Who have not had their IRS status revoked.** It is your responsibility to ensure that your status is current at the time of the application and throughout the life of your award.
- **That compensate all professional performers and related or supporting professional personnel on National Endowment for the Arts-supported projects at no less than the prevailing minimum compensation.** (This requirement is in accordance with regulations that have been issued by the Secretary of Labor in [29 CFR Part 505](#). This part does not provide information on specific compensation levels.)
- **That ensure that no part of any National Endowment for the Arts-supported project will be performed under or engaged in working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to the health and safety of the employees involved.**

2. Some legal requirements apply to every applicant. For example:

- **Compliance with the federal requirements** that are outlined in the Assurance of Compliance below.
- **Debarment and Suspension procedures.** The applicant must comply with requirements set forth in Subpart C of 2 CFR 180, as adopted by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2 CFR Part 3254. Failure to comply may result in the debarment or suspension of the recipient, and the National Endowment for the Arts suspending, terminating, and/or recovering the funds. More information on Debarment and Suspension procedures can be found in the GTCs.
- **Federal Debt Status** ([OMB Circular A-129](#)). Processing of applications will be suspended when applicants are delinquent on federal tax or non-tax debts, including judgment liens against property for a debt to the federal government. An organization's debt status is displayed in the System for Award Management (SAM). New awards will not be

made if an applicant is still in debt status as of September 1 of the fiscal year listed on this funding opportunity.

- **Labor Standards** ([29 CFR Part 505](#)). Recipients must comply with the standards set out in Labor Standards on Projects or Productions Assisted by Grants from the National Endowments for the Arts.
 - **The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988** (41 U.S.C. 8101 et seq. and 2 CFR Part 3256). The recipient is required to publish a statement regarding its drug-free workplace program as well as to comply with other requirements.
3. **Some legal requirements apply depending upon what activity the award is funding. For example:**
- If your project activities have the potential to impact historic properties, you will be required to provide additional information or take additional action in accordance with the [National Historic Preservation Act](#) (NHPA). The agency review must be completed prior to any agency funds being released.
 - If your project activities have the potential to impact the environment or environmentally sensitive resources, you will be required to provide information in accordance with the [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA). The agency review must be completed prior to any agency funds being released.
 - If your project activities include any contract over \$2,000 involving the construction, alteration, or repair of public buildings or public works, the contract must contain a clause setting forth the minimum wages to be paid to laborers and mechanics employed under the contract in accordance with The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA). More information on DBRA can be found in the [GTCs](#) under the "Other National Policies" heading.
 - Projects or programs that are determined to be obscene are without artistic merit and shall not be funded. 20 USC 952(j)-(l); 20 USC 954(d),(l).
4. **Some legal requirements apply depending upon who the applicant is. For example:**
- [The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990](#) (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) applies to any organization that controls or possesses Native American cultural items, such as human remains or associated funerary objects and receives Federal funding, even for a purpose unrelated to the Act.
5. **In addition, State Arts Agencies must meet the requirements in [Section 954\(g\)\(2\)](#) of the National Endowment for the Arts' authorizing legislation, which state:**
- "In order to receive assistance under this subsection in any fiscal year, a State shall submit an application for such grants at such time as shall be specified by the Chairperson and accompany such applications with a plan which the Chairperson finds—
- (A) designates or provides for the establishment of a State agency (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "State agency") as the sole agency for the administration of the State plan;

- (B) provides that funds paid to the State under this subsection will be expended solely on projects and productions approved by the State agency which carry out one or more of the objectives of subsection (c);
- (C) provides that the State agency will make such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Chairperson may from time to time require, including a description of the progress made toward achieving the goals of the State plan;
- (D) provides—
 - (i) assurances that the State agency has held, after reasonable notice, public meetings in the State to allow all groups of artists, interested organizations, and the public to present views and make recommendations regarding the State plan; and
 - (ii) a summary of such recommendations and the State agency's response to such recommendations; and
- (E) contains—
 - (i) a description of the level of participation during the most recent preceding year for which information is available by artists, artists' organizations, and arts organizations in projects and productions for which financial assistance is provided under this subsection;
 - (ii) for the most recent preceding year for which information is available, a description of the extent projects and productions receiving financial assistance from the State arts agency are available to all people and communities in the State; and
 - (iii) a description of projects and productions receiving financial assistance under this subsection that exist or are being developed to secure wider participation of artists, artists' organizations, and arts organizations identified under clause (i) of this subparagraph or that address the availability of the arts to all people or communities identified under clause (ii) of this subparagraph.

No application may be approved unless the accompanying plan satisfies the requirements specified in this subsection."

Assurance of Compliance

By signing and submitting its application form on Grants.gov, the applicant certifies that it is in compliance with the statutes outlined below 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.

We may conduct a review of your organization to ensure that the applicant is in compliance with these statutes, regulations, and executive orders. If the NEA determines that a recipient has failed to comply with any of these statutes, regulations, or executive orders it may suspend or terminate the award, and/or recover the funds. The applicant's assurance of compliance is subject to judicial enforcement.

The applicant certifies that it does not discriminate:

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- On the grounds of race, color, or national origin, in accordance with **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), implemented by the National Endowment for the Arts at 45 CFR 1110.
- Solely on the grounds of disability, in accordance with **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** (29 U.S.C. 794), as amended, implemented by the National Endowment for the Arts at 45 CFR 1151, and the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** ("ADA"), as amended, (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).
- On the basis of age, in accordance with the **Age Discrimination Act of 1975**, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), implemented by the National Endowment for the Arts at 45 CFR 1156.
- On the basis of sex, in any education program or activity, in accordance with **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

In addition, the applicant agrees that, if the applicant is selected and becomes a NEA grant recipient:

- The applicant's compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the U.S. Government's payment decisions for purposes of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729(b)(4), pursuant to Executive Order No. 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, dated January 21, 2025.
- The applicant does not operate any programs promoting "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI) that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, in accordance with Executive Order No. 14173.
- [See FAQ on these certification requirements](#)

The applicant will inform the public that persons who believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, or age may file a complaint with the Director of Civil Rights at the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA Office of Civil Rights reserves the right to require an applicant or recipient, upon request, to forward complaints that result in a finding of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, or age, as well as any finding of discrimination issued by a federal or state court, or administrative agency, to:

Director, NEA Office of Civil Rights
Email: civilrights@arts.gov

The applicant shall maintain records of its compliance and submission for three (3) years. The applicant will compile, maintain and permit access to records as required by applicable regulations, guidelines or other directives.

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The applicant must also certify that it will obtain assurances of compliance from all subrecipients and will require all subrecipients of National Endowment for the Arts funds to comply with these requirements.

The United States has the right to seek judicial or administrative enforcement of this assurance.