



SHARP Grant Guidelines: Project Support

SHARP Project Support Grants provide programmatic support to Maine non-profit organizations that provide (or wish to provide) humanities programming that will support their communities as they respond to and recover from the coronavirus pandemic. Funding for these grants is made available through the National Endowment the Humanities (NEH) initiative **Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan** (SHARP) as part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan of 2021

Funds

Grants of up to \$7,500 for non-profit organizations across Maine that wish to provide humanities programming that will help their community recover and move forward from the coronavirus pandemic. No funding match or cost-share is required.

Funds may be used for costs directly associated with the proposed humanities-based project including but not limited to:

- staff salaries *directly tied* to the proposed humanities program
- collecting stories of Maine's experience of the coronavirus pandemic
- digitizing collections and making them available online
- virtual or outdoor humanities projects
- other humanities programs and projects

Please see the FAQ sheet for more information about what SHARP funds can and cannot support.

Timeline for use of funds:

Grant funded activity must begin by December 31, 2021 (this could be planning) and end no later than November 30, 2022.

Priorities

- Intended to support cultural organizations who provide or want to provide humanities programming that will support their communities as they respond to and recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

- Organizations serving and led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities are encouraged to apply.
 - These groups include people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people who live in rural areas, people with disabilities, people who identify as immigrants or refugees, and people whose first (or only) language is not English. (Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.)
- It is the aim of the Maine Humanities Council to maximize the impact of available SHARP funding.

Eligibility

In order to receive a Project Support grant, your organization must be a Maine based organization that offers or wants to offer humanities programs and projects, and is one of the following:

- A 501(c)(3) organization registered in Maine.
- An accredited public and 501(c)(3) institution of higher education.
- A State and local government agency.
- A Federally recognized Native American tribal government.

Note: Organizations with humanities-rooted missions should apply for a SHARP General Operating Support Grant as they offer the greatest flexibility in how funding may be used.

Not eligible for SHARP Project Support grants:

Individuals; for-profit organizations; organizations not based in Maine. Organizations may not apply through a fiscal sponsor to meet eligibility requirements. **EXCEPTION:** Ineligible organizations that are collaborating with eligible organizations on a humanities project or program. In this instance, the eligible organization must complete the application and must name collaborating organizations in the application.

Application Review

- Applications are due by midnight, November 1, 2021
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of staff and Board. members of the Maine Humanities Council.
- Eligible applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated need, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the organization, how funds will help the organization move forward, and our stated priorities.
- Grant notifications will be made starting on December 6, 2021

To Apply

- The application period will open October 14, 2021
- Applications must be received by midnight, November 1, 2021
- [Apply online](#)

- As required by federal guidelines, applicants must have a DUNS number in order to receive funds. While not required to apply, funds cannot be dispersed without this registration. Apply for this as early as possible, as a DUNS number can take some time to receive (they are free). [Lean more and apply for DUNS number](#)

Information Sessions

We will be hosting Information sessions specifically for Project Support Grants online

Thursday, Oct. 7 (3-4 pm)

Thursday, Oct. 14 (10-11)

Register online for an information session

Please submit questions for the information sessions via email to lizz@mainehumanities.org; please include the session you will be attending and your phone number in case she needs to contact you for any clarification.

Because of the volume of applicants applying for the SHARP grants, we strongly encourage you to read the FAQ sheet and all other SHARP Grant information, and ideally attend an information session, before reaching out to MHC staff.



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