

Create In Utah

Frequently Asked Questions (updated 7/22/20)

This page will be updated as more questions arise. Please check back often for updates. If you have further questions, please contact Laurel Cannon Alder, lalder@utah.gov

Please note: The application has a new due date. It is now due Friday, August 7th at 5:00 p.m.

What does it mean that we need to plan a program to “give back” to the community that is worth 50% of the grant?

The leadership of our state has recognized that the cultural community has the potential to play an important role in healing our state. Bringing people together in museums and at performances is central to the goal of encouraging people to safely re-engage in community. Through this funding, the legislature has created a vehicle for organizations to present activities or programs that would not otherwise happen by providing direct funds for a project. There will be challenges in getting people to return to our cultural venues and this funding can help to stimulate attendance. Grant project proposals will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

If the programming that you are offering is the programming that you always offer, please be thoughtful about the fact that this is to encourage people to come back and participate and *must include something more than programming-as-usual*, something that reflects the generosity of the legislature in giving these funds to cultural organizations for the benefit of the citizens of Utah. The “give back” portion of this grant must account for at least 50% of the grant award and may combine the hard costs of offering the program as well as additional programming elements or discounted admission.

We want to offer more than one program. Is that ok?

Yes. It is acceptable to offer more than one program in order to provide an adequate accounting for giving back to the community. If offering more than one program, do not submit a separate application; incorporate both programs into the same application.

Does the project need to be free to the public?

The project does not need to be free to the public, but as specified in the first question, it does need to equate to giving back to the community for at least 50% of the value of the grant. The cost of producing the project can be factored into the budget, but there should be a significant identifiable element of the project that provides a benefit to the community and encourages attendance beyond typical organizational events or activities. Your creativity is welcome. \

Can we offer online programming or access to our services as part of the “give back” project?
Because this funding is intended to encourage in-person community engagement, online programming may not be counted. But, the general operating support portion of this grant can be used for online services among the other acceptable expenditures.

What if we are not awarded the full amount that we are asking for? Can we adjust the program to fit the budget?

Yes, you will be given an opportunity to adjust your programming to fit the grant award. We will ask you to submit an adjusted project and budget proposal, which will be reviewed and approved by our staff and/or review committee.

Can you explain how the money needs to be spent? I am confused by the two dates.

All funds need to be expended by December 30, 2020. This is a federal requirement of the CARES Act. The funds can all be used as emergency relief funds for general operating support. And at least 50% of the value grant must be used to “give back” to the community. The “give back” portion must take place before June 30, 2020, and can be paid for by your budget after you have expended all of the funds.

Our project will take place September 15 - 30, 2020. Do I need to wait to complete the final report until June?

No. Final reports should be filed within 30 days of the completion of the general operating grant element and within 30 days of the completion of the project. Two separate reports will be required for this grant: a financial report and a project report. Audits may be conducted on either element of the grant. Funds that have been improperly spent must be returned to the State of Utah.

I represent an arts division within a municipality (City or County). Am I eligible to apply?

Based on our grant guidelines, you are eligible to apply for this grant. However you should be sure to consult with your municipality’s attorney to ensure that you will not have any restrictions on using these funds for your cultural project and operating expenses.

We are raising money for a remodel. Can we use this money for that?

No. The funds cannot be used for capital expenditures.

Can we use the general operating dollars to prepay activities that will happen after January 1, 2021?

No. This is not allowed by the grant.

Can we use the grant to pay for expenses incurred prior to July 1, 2020?

No. All expenses need to be incurred and paid for between July 1 - December 30, 2020.

For-profits do not use the same audited financial statements that nonprofits do. Can a for-profit submit something different?

We recognize that many of our for-profit applicants will not have the same audited financials as the nonprofit organizations that we often serve. We have made an amendment to that requirement and instead request unaudited Profit & Loss statements for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 fiscal years.

As a privately held company, we cannot make our profit statements available to the general public.

If you have any concerns about privacy, we also have a form that can be signed that will protect your financial information from any GRAMA requests, so that it will only be used for the purpose of this grant.