



HUMANITIES KANSAS

A Movement of Ideas

SHARP Recovery Grant Guidelines

Updated July 14, 2021

The Humanities Kansas SHARP Recovery Grants are intended to reach a diverse network of urban and rural cultural nonprofits located in Kansas whose primary work involves the humanities.

Funds are intended to help cultural nonprofit organizations recover from financial hardship resulting from the pandemic. Funds may be used to cover day-to-day expenses such as staff salaries, utilities, rent, and equipment and staffing needs related to transitioning post-pandemic. There are no cash match or cost share requirements.

Award amounts are divided into three categories based on an organization's annual budget:

- Organizations with an annual budget of \$100,000 or less may request up to \$5,000.
- Organizations with an annual budget between \$100,000 and \$400,000 may request up to 5% of their budget (\$5,000-\$20,000).
- Organizations with an annual budget over \$400,000 may request up to \$20,000.

HK strives to distribute funding equitably around the state. Award amounts will be determined by the number of eligible applicants.

Support is limited to any or all of the following:

- Salary support, full or partial, for positions critical to the cultural organization's mission. This includes both full- and part-time staff members and staff benefits.
- Fees for contractual or consultant personnel who are key to the advancement of the organization's mission.
- Facilities costs such as rent and utilities. (Funds cannot be used to pay an organization's mortgage.)
- Technical and consultant needs related to a digital or operational transition. (Equipment costs cannot exceed 20% of a grant award.)

Cost share is not required.

Eligible applicants must be nonprofit organizations located in Kansas and whose primary work is in the humanities. Examples include but are not limited to museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, and historical sites. (Note: Universities and colleges are not eligible for this opportunity.)

Applicants will need the following:

- Simplified annual budget that can be uploaded as a PDF.
- DUNS number. The DUNS number is a 9-digit number used to track federal funding. DUNS numbers are free and never require a processing fee. You can receive a DUNS number free-of-charge at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Need help? Follow this step-by-step "[How to Get a DUNS Number](#)" document.

Organizations receiving funding will

- Return a signed grant agreement
- Notify their members of Congress of the grant award
- Spend the funds between September 15, 2021, and January 15, 2022.
- Submit a brief final report to Humanities Kansas by April 15, 2022.

Preferred, but not required

- Ability to receive grant award funds as a direct deposit.

Application Deadline: Monday, August 16, 2021.

Applicants will be notified in September 2021.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through the online grants system at humanitieskansas.org. In addition to basic registration information, the grant application form will ask for the following information:

- Audience / Visitors size for a typical year before Covid.
- Brief description of your organization, mission statement, who you serve, and your core humanities programs
- Annual Operating Budget
- Grant amount requested, plus a brief detail of how you will apply the funds. (For example, a list of specific job titles and salaries, a breakdown of utilities, and monthly rent.) The amount available is dependent on your organization's annual budget.
- A brief description of the impact of the coronavirus on your organization and why you need financial assistance.
- Upload two attachments: image for promotional usage if the application is awarded funds, and a PDF of your organization's annual budget.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. *My organization has an open Humanities Kansas grant. Can we apply for these special relief grants?*
Yes.
2. *Are there funds available from Humanities Kansas for support for a specific program or project? In other words, are there funds available for things other than general operating support?*
Yes. Please contact Leslie VonHolten at LVH@humanitieskansas.org to discuss eligibility, opportunities, and the application process.
3. *What do you mean by "Technical and consultant needs related to an operational or digital transition?"*
The unprecedented experience of the pandemic presented challenges and opportunities for strengthening operational areas. Transitions can include, for example, purchasing equipment to host online events, hiring a consultant to help strengthen private fundraising, or developing strategies to update and streamline operational processes.
4. *Can I hire new staff with these funds?*
Yes, if the new staff person is needed to recover from the pandemic.
5. *Why can we not use SHARP funds to help with our mortgage payments?*
Federal funds cannot be used toward purchasing buildings.
6. *The windows in our historic building need to be replaced. Can SHARP funds help us with that?*
Sorry, no. SHARP funds cannot be used for capital improvements.

7. *Are public libraries eligible for funding?*

Yes. However, SHARP funds from Humanities Kansas cannot be used toward expenses also paid for by ARPA funds provided by the State Library of Kansas.

8. *Universities and colleges and their departments cannot apply. Can university-related nonprofits such as foundations and public radio stations apply?*

Yes, if at least 50% of programs are humanities-related.

9. *Where is the funding coming from?*

The funds have been made available through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to assist cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden. NEH is providing funds to Humanities Kansas specifically for redistribution as grants to cultural organizations in need in Kansas.

10. *What will be expected in the final report?*

It will be brief. Humanities Kansas will ask how the funds were spent and an impact statement answering a question similar to "How did this general operating support help your organization recover from the economic impact of the coronavirus, and what are your plans going forward?"

11. *I'm not sure I should apply. Any advice?*

If your organization does humanities programming and suffered financial losses from canceled fundraising events, decreased donations, and other lost sources of revenue due to the pandemic, you should apply.

Congress included these funds in the relief package because our cultural organizations matter. They make a difference in our communities. They make our state a better place to live. And none of it could be possible without the talented and dedicated people who work there. These grant funds help protect the survival of our important humanities sector.

12. *Do we have to pay the funds back?*

No. This is a grant, so you do not need to pay the funds back. You just need to ensure that you spend the money as you said you would spend it in the application.

13. *I work for an arts organization. Are we eligible to apply?*

If you are a performing arts venue or an arts center that spends most of your resources on art instruction or art production, then you should apply for American Rescue Plan funds through the Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission (KCAIC). However, if 50% or more of your work is humanities programming, then yes, you are eligible to apply through Humanities Kansas. Please note that an organization cannot apply to both Humanities Kansas and KCAIC for the same request.

14. *What do you mean by humanities?*

The humanities help us understand what it means to be human—to seek connections with people and place. Humanities work draws upon familiar disciplines like history, literature, ethnic studies, languages, linguistics, law, folklore, gender studies, religious studies, philosophy, art history, archeology, cultural anthropology, and ethics. Social sciences, such as political science and sociology, are also considered humanities. The humanities are the study of the human experience, with attention to our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and its relevance to the current conditions of national life.

For information about the SHARP Recovery Grants, contact Leslie VonHolten, Director of Grants & Outreach, at LVH@humanitieskansas.org.