

ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE

Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants Application Guidelines

Alabama Humanities Alliance (AHA) is offering special grant funding to help humanities organizations recover from financial hardship created by the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen their capacity to transition into a post-pandemic period. AHA will award approximately \$800,000 in grant funding through individual awards of up to \$20,000.

AHA will accept applications from **July 1 to July 30, 2021**, through our [Online Grant Management System](#). Additional grant opportunities may be available if funding remains after July 30.

YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

What's a humanities organization? Does my nonprofit qualify? And what kind of activities and costs could these grants support?

Our grant guidelines, below, should provide the answers you need. If you have additional questions, please contact Graydon Rust, AHA's grants director, at grust@alabamahumanities.org.

Note: Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants are available thanks to funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. You can learn about [additional relief funding](#) provided directly by NEH.

FUNDING CRITERIA

In recognition of the serious impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the ability of humanities organizations to carry out their work, AHA will direct funds for operational expenses and capacity-building support that will enable applicants to respond to the current and long-term challenges necessary to serve their communities.

What could these grants cover for your organization?

Recovery from the pandemic may take multiple forms. Appropriate requests for funding may include the following activities:

- Staff salaries and fringe benefits for personnel significantly involved in humanities programming and administration
- Administrative, operational, and marketing expenses, including rent, property maintenance, utilities, printing and postage, equipment, and supplies
- Strategic planning, professional development, equity assessments, and capacity building efforts related to responding to and recovering from the pandemic
- Professional fees, including honoraria and stipends for humanities scholars, advisors, consultants, interviewees, evaluators, etc.
- Programming, publication, and dissemination expenses, such as exhibit fabrication and installation, venue rental, web design, videography, and screening
- Technical assistance, consultation, or training provided by experts that will directly enhance humanities programming capabilities, such as a transition to virtual, digital, or outdoor programs or preservation
- Communicative and collaborative activities that will promote partnership, networking, and leveraging the resources of multiple public humanities providers resulting in enhanced programming capacity

What do these grants NOT cover?

The following types of activities are **ineligible** for funding with an Alabama Humanities Recovery Grant:

- Unallowable expenses as defined in [2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles](#)
- Indirect costs
- Overlapping project costs with any other pending or approved application(s) for federal funding or approved federal awards
- Funds for activities supported by other non-NEH federal funds
- Competitive regranting
- Cancellation costs
- Equipment costs in excess of 20% of total project costs
- Travel (both foreign and domestic)
- Construction, purchase of real property, major alteration, and renovation
- Environmental sustainability
- Collections acquisition
- The preservation, organization, or description of materials that are not regularly accessible for research, education, or public programming
- Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- Support of specific public policies or legislation
- Lobbying
- Projects that fall outside of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences (including the creation or performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and quantitative social science research or policy studies)

Grantees must expend all awarded funds between March 15, 2021, and November 30, 2022. Applicants do not have to provide matching funds. Organizations interested in grant funding for humanities programming unrelated to pandemic recovery should review guidelines for AHA's ongoing [quarterly grant cycles](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants are available to Alabama-based nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated commitment to providing public humanities programming, including museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, and other cultural organizations across the state.

To receive an Alabama Humanities Recovery Grant, an organization must meet the following criteria:

- Provide public humanities programming as a significant part of its mission and work
- Be a registered nonprofit organization with a federal DUNS number
- Be physically located in Alabama and serve Alabama residents as its primary audience

The following types of organizations are **ineligible** to receive an Alabama Humanities Recovery Grant:

- Individuals and for-profit organizations
- Political, religious, and ideological advocacy organizations
- Social and human service organizations without an explicit commitment to the humanities in their mission or programming
- K-12 schools, universities, colleges, and academic departments (Exception: Museums, archives, and other public-facing humanities organizations affiliated with a college or university may apply)
- Arts organizations (Note: Organizations primarily focused on the arts should apply for federal American Rescue Plan funding through the Alabama State Council on the Arts' [Alabama Arts Recovery Program](#))
- Organizations suspended or debarred from participating in federal programs or activities or that are delinquent on federal debt

Applicants do not need to have prior grant history with AHA to apply. Organizations with an open AHA [programmatic grant award](#) may also apply.

REVIEW PROCESS

AHA staff and a committee composed of AHA board members will review all Alabama Humanities Recovery Grant applications for eligibility, completeness, and competitiveness.

AHA will evaluate eligible applications based on the following criteria:

- Significance and urgency of need related to pandemic recovery and alignment of proposed activities with identified needs

- Demonstration of commitment to providing public humanities programming as a significant portion of the organization’s mission and work
- Potential of proposed activities to enhance the applicant’s capacity to provide rich and meaningful public humanities learning experiences to the people of Alabama
- Diversity and equity in audience served, including the ability to reach minority, rural, or other underserved populations or areas of the state
- Feasibility and soundness of proposed plan to accomplish proposed objectives within the grant period and with level of resources available
- The applicant’s past performance with AHA-awarded grant funds

AHA will notify applicants of award decisions via email by September 7, 2021. Applicants may also view the status of their application by logging into AHA’s [Online Grant Management System](#).

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

The humanities are often described as the study of how people process and document the human experience. Since humans have been able, we have used philosophy, literature, religion, art, history, and language to understand and record our world. Exploring these subjects gives us the opportunity to think critically and creatively. To feel a sense of connection to those who have come before us. And to better connect with our communities and our neighbors today.

According to NEH, the humanities include the study and interpretation of:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Language and linguistics | • Archaeology |
| • Literature | • Comparative religion |
| • History | • Art history, theory, and criticism |
| • Philosophy and ethics | • Social sciences employing humanistic methods |
| • Jurisprudence | |

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Graydon Rust at grust@alabamahumanities.org.

