

Frequently Asked Questions - 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grant

What are the humanities?

When Congress established the National Endowment for the Humanities, and subsequently state and territorial councils like the LEH, it defined the humanities to include the following disciplines:

- History
- Philosophy
- Literature
- Foreign languages (classical and modern)
- Linguistics
- Comparative religion
- Ethics
- Archaeology
- Jurisprudence
- Art history
- Theory and criticism
- Philosophical and historical approaches to social sciences

These fields are differentiated from the quantitative social sciences and the arts (visual, performing, or creative). However, the social sciences and the arts can interface with the humanities in terms of method or content. For example, political theory and cultural anthropology and geography are considered humanities disciplines. So are folklore and certain interdisciplinary fields such as American, ethnic, and women's studies.

A common point of confusion is differentiating humanities-focused organizations from humanitarian-focused organizations. If your organization does not have a history of public programming related to the NEH-defined subject matter listing shared above but are focused on providing humanitarian aid through first response or health efforts, you are not eligible for this grant stream. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to LEH Director of Grants, Erin Voisin at voisin@leh.org.

Is nonprofit status a condition of funding?

Organizations eligible to receive funds under the 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grant are humanities-based organizations operating within the sixty-four parishes of Louisiana. Organizations must be nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status; public-facing organizations operating within accredited institutions of higher learning; state and local government agencies; or state and federally recognized Native American tribal governments in Louisiana. Organizations reaching underserved populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

What is cost-share?

Cost-share is the amount of funding provided by non-LEH sources. This support may be either in actual cash or in the form of in-kind contributions including volunteer time, contributed equipment and supplies, contributed facilities, and indirect costs. ***Cost-sharing is not required for the 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grant Opportunity.***

What costs are eligible for LEH 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grant?

Allowable costs must clearly and directly cover general operating expenses for humanities-based organizations operating within the sixty-four parishes of Louisiana. **Programmatic costs are unallowable for this grant stream.** Eligible operating expenses include (but are not limited to):

- staff retention (salaries, wages, and benefits),
- rent,
- insurance,
- mortgage,
- and utilities.

How are grant applications evaluated?

LEH staff reviews all grant applications submitted through the LEH online application portal. The online application closes at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the specified deadline. Late applications will not be accepted or reviewed. No exceptions are made. The staff issues recommendations to the LEH Grants Review Committee. The 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grant committee approves or rejects applications based on the following criteria:

- Organization's record of humanities-based programming
- Alignment with approved use of funds
- Geographic location (organization must be in one of Louisiana's sixty-four parishes)*
- Organization size*
- Estimated annual audience*
- Town or parish population density*
- Organizations who received a 2023 Emergency Planning Grant will be given priority consideration.

**LEH aims to reach all areas of the state and support organizations of all sizes, with a particular focus on reaching underserved communities.*

What final reports and evaluation are required for funded projects?

All grants require submission of a final report and final budget at the end of the project period of performance. ***Grantees should refer to the specific reporting requirements specified in their award agreement for detailed instructions on what to include.***

What role does LEH staff play?

The LEH staff is available to review preliminary proposals, review preliminary budgets, and advise on LEH guidelines. If you have questions about 2023 Louisiana Culture Care Fund Grants or if you would like to set up a virtual meeting to discuss your plans, we encourage you to contact Director of Grants Erin Voisin at voisin@leh.org.