

Frequently Asked Questions 2025 Emergency Readiness Grants

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.

Is nonprofit status a condition of funding?

Organizations eligible to receive funds under the 2025 Emergency Readiness 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 or 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 2025 Emergency Readiness Grants.***

What costs are eligible for the LEH 2025 Emergency Readiness Grant?

Allowable costs must clearly and directly support activities that will reduce the effects of past or future disasters. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Hire consultants to develop, update or guide grantee staff in developing written emergency plans;

- Underwrite staff time to create, update, and implement written emergency plans;
- Support staff training, such as workshops or other professional development opportunities, directly related to emergency planning;
- Coverage or partial coverage of insurance storm deductible;
- IT support to underwrite moving servers and other local systems vulnerable to onsite flooding to the cloud;
- Physical repairs or improvements that reduce vulnerability.

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 2025 Emergency Readiness 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 impact and reach*

**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 project director's 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 2025 Emergency Readiness Grants or if you would like to set up a virtual meeting to discuss your plans, we encourage you to contact this grant's program officer, Director of Grants Erin Voisin at voisin@leh.org.