



NORTH CAROLINA
HUMANITIES
C O U N C I L

MANY STORIES, ONE PEOPLE

Grant Proposal Guidelines

Large Grants
Grassroots Grants
Planning Grants

Introduction

Mission

The North Carolina Humanities Council is a statewide nonprofit affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. It serves as an advocate for lifelong learning and thoughtful dialogue about all facets of human life. It facilitates the exploration and celebration of the many voices and stories of North Carolina’s cultures and heritage.

The North Carolina Humanities Council develops among North Carolinians an understanding of and appreciation for the humanities that can transform the way they see themselves and their communities. In support of these goals, the North Carolina Humanities Council is committed to the following:

- An interdisciplinary approach to the humanities
- Dialogue
- Discovery and understanding of the humanities--culture, identity, and history
- Respect for individual community members and community values
- Humanities scholarship and scholars to develop humanities perspectives
- Cultural diversity and inclusiveness
- Informed and active citizenship as an outgrowth of new awareness of self and community

Vision

The North Carolina Humanities Council envisions people who explore their personal and collective stories asking fundamental questions about identity, work, and culture; learning to value others’ stories and perspectives; and transforming their lives and communities through new reflections and new visions.

General Grant Criteria

North Carolina Humanities Council-sponsored programs must involve both humanities scholars and the public and are aimed at a wide, community-based audience. Proposals will be evaluated according to how well they fit with the mission and goals of the Council, including the following:

- Community involvement and its reflected diversity
- Strength of scholar(s)
- Potential long-term impact or replicability of the program
- Nature of the topic and intended audience
- Project’s contribution to the North Carolina Humanities Council’s commitment to support public humanities programs throughout the state.

Types of Grants

Our grants support non-profit organizations operating in North Carolina. We do not at this time offer grants to individuals, scholarships or fellowships. Projects that involve educational institutions must reach a broader audience. We encourage programs that engage adults in life-long learning. Submit via email or mail.

Planning Grants \$750 or less

Secure the assistance of a humanities scholar/consultant to plan a project. Allowable expenses include consultant’s stipends and reimbursement for travel, meals, and lodging. No deadline – applications accepted in an on-going basis.

Grassroots Grants \$2,000 or less

Provide up to \$2,000 for scholar stipends, travel, meals, lodging, publicity, and certain other expenses connected with a project of limited scope. Application must arrive at the North Carolina Humanities Council’s office by the first day of the month to be considered for funding during that month’s funding cycle. Submit grant applications no less than eight weeks before the project’s start date. Grant awards are usually made by the end of the month submitted.

Large Grants more than \$2,000

Provide funds for humanities projects of extended scope including, but not limited to, lecture/discussion series, performance/discussions, exhibit/discussions, and film/video productions. Require submission of a draft proposal. Maximum request: \$10,000. Average award: \$5,000. **Media projects: \$5,000 limit.**

Large Grant Deadlines

For projects beginning after	July 15	December 15
Draft proposals are due	March 15	August 15
Final proposals are due	April 15	September 15
Award decisions are made	mid-June	mid-November

You Need to Know

A. What makes a humanities program different from other types of programs?

An important goal of the humanities is to encourage reflection about values and ideas through interdisciplinary programs. All of us hold beliefs and assumptions which shape the way we see the world, whether it is a contemporary issue or our understanding of an historical event. A humanities program makes us more aware of the connection between our values and the views that we express in public and private life. It also encourages us to understand the values of others and how their views may differ from our own.

A good humanities program makes us think in new ways. It questions, without providing pat answers. It presents different points of view about an issue or a topic. A humanities program moves beyond facts and information (what, where, and when) to questions of interpretation and analysis (i.e., “What is the meaning of this story?” or “How can we learn from it?” or “Which version of the story do we chose to believe and why?”).

These are the kinds of questions that humanities disciplines ask about any subject. Although the particular focus of how we come to understand human experience may differ from discipline-to-discipline, what is consistent is the necessity of rigorous inquiry and connecting meaning to how we live our lives. As the founding legislation of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) states, “Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.”

Humanities disciplines, according to the NEH, include but are not limited “to the study and interpretation of language, both modern and classical; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods.”

Humanities projects incorporate how understanding gained from the study of such disciplines helps us reflect on and give meaning to our “diverse heritage, traditions, histories, and the current conditions of national life.”

For further clarification contact North Carolina Humanities Council staff.

B. How do we find humanities professionals to help us plan and carry out our project?

A humanities scholar can be someone with an advanced degree (at least an M.A.) in a humanities discipline or a lay expert with special expertise in the life-ways, traditions, and worldviews of a particular culture.

North Carolina Humanities Council staff can help you locate humanities professionals with matching interests and experience in conducting public programs who might be willing to participate in your project. You may also contact a university, college or community college humanities department for help.

C. What kinds of groups receive North Carolina Humanities Council grants?

Our grantees include libraries, schools, museums, religious institutions, universities, colleges, community colleges, tribal organizations, civic clubs, home-extension units, arts councils, city and county governments, community-based organizations, and ad hoc groups created for the sole purpose of carrying out a project.

D. What if an individual has an idea for a project?

The North Carolina Humanities Council does not currently make grants to individuals. Individuals with a project idea may consult with a nonprofit organization to determine whether they share interests and might serve as the grant applicant.

E. What kinds of project formats are supported?

Projects the North Carolina Humanities Council has funded include, but are not limited to: reading-and-discussion programs, lectures, conferences, seminars, symposia, media projects (radio, television, film, video, DVD, web), performance activities with discussion (such as plays, staged reading, and original performance initiatives), oral histories, photographic exhibits, museum exhibits, the creation and dissemination of printed materials, and teacher workshops.

F. What is the limit of a large grant request?

Large grant awards average \$5,000 and rarely exceed \$10,000. We encourage you to contact our staff to assist you in developing your ideas and project formats. First drafts are only required for large grant proposals. See the schedule above for deadlines.

Policies Affecting All North Carolina Humanities Council Grant Categories

A. Applicant Eligibility

The applicant organization must be a nonprofit operating in North Carolina. The North Carolina Humanities Council does not currently award grants to individuals, scholarships or fellowships. While we welcome applications that involve educational institutions, the proposed project must reach a broader community. We encourage programs that engage adults and life-long learning.

B. Humanities Scholars

Humanities scholars or lay experts must be involved in both the planning and implementation of all North Carolina Humanities Council funded projects.

C. Topic Eligibility

The project's subject must be within or addressed by one or more of the humanities disciplines. We cannot fund projects centered on the arts (theatre, dance, music, or visual arts) unless the arts set the stage for a humanities program. We also cannot fund projects which advocate social or political action - public funds cannot be used to advocate personal/political points of view.

D. Applicant Organization Grant Match

Applicant organizations must match North Carolina Humanities Council grant funds with in-kind and/or cash contributions. The match must equal at least the grant amount requested from the North Carolina Humanities Council.

E. Standard of Conduct

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) stipulates that officers, employees, and agents of the applicant organization will neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from prospective contractors or parties to the project who might receive financial or other benefit from being associated with it.

F. Conflict of Interest

North Carolina Humanities Council grant recipients must avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest in disbursing grant funds. Such a conflict would arise if, for example, the project director or head of the applicant organization chose a spouse or relative to receive North Carolina Humanities Council funds in return for services rendered to the project. The following people are prohibited from receiving North Carolina Humanities Council funds without special approval: immediate family members, spouses, business partners, or employers of the people who choose grant participants. Violation of these restrictions could result in revocation of the grant.

G. Federal Requirement

As of October 1, 2010, under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), no organization can receive a grant award without providing a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number to the awarding agency. A DUNS number is a nine-digit number established by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) to uniquely identify business entities. You can obtain a DUNS number from D&B by phone (866 705-5711) or through their website <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

Restrictions to the Use of North Carolina Humanities Council Funds

- A. All activities funded by the North Carolina Humanities Council grants must be free and open to the public.
- B. The North Carolina Humanities Council cannot fund projects which advocate social or political action. Public funds cannot be used to advocate personal/political points of view.
- C. Grassroots grant funds can only be used for projects starting at least eight (8) weeks after application submission date. Large grant funds can only be used for projects beginning at least eight (8) weeks after award decision. The North Carolina Humanities Council does not offer funding retroactively. While expenses incurred prior to the grant award are not reimbursable from North Carolina Humanities Council funds, these expenses may be used as part of the applicant organization's match when accurate documentation of in-kind services has been maintained.
- D. North Carolina Humanities Council grant funds cannot be used to purchase equipment, buildings, or other non-expendable items, such as tape recorders, film projectors, or video equipment.
- E. Grant funds cannot be used to pay salaries to individuals who are administering the grant as part of a salaried job.
- F. The stipend payment to a speaker, scholar, or presenter for a single presentation in a program cannot exceed \$400 in North Carolina Humanities Council funds.
- G. Except for the meals of program presenters or consultants, North Carolina Humanities Council funds cannot be used for food. In addition, grant funds cannot be used for entertainment, liquor, or purely social activities. In conjunction with project activities, applicants may provide refreshments and/or lunches and dinners for their audiences through local cash contributions.

For more information, please contact:

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