



Culture supports

This program will begin shortly

Express Yourself, Beverly MA



Today's presenters:

2



Jen Lawless,
Operations Director,
She/Her/Hers



Sara Glidden,
CIP Program Manager,
She/Her/Hers

Today's chat/Q&A moderators:



Charles Baldwin,
Program Officer, UP
Program



Kalyn King,
CIP Program Officer



Cheyenne
Cohn-Postell
CIP Program Officer



Michael Ibrahim,
CIP Program Manager

Today's agenda

4

- Program Overview
- Eligibility
- Application Information
- Timeline
- Questions?
- Please note: this Information is a supplement to the published guidelines for the grant program and is not a substitute for reviewing the Guidelines on the Mass Cultural Council website.

Program Overview

Cultural Organization Economic Recovery Program

5

- \$10 million program is part of the Baker-Polito Economic Recovery Plan, funded with federal CARES Act monies
- Administered by Mass Cultural Council, in partnership with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED)
- Intended to help non-profit cultural organizations adversely impacted by the pandemic
- \$2 million is dedicated to "Small Organizations," in alignment with the FY20 COVID supplemental budget

Program Eligibility

Massachusetts cultural organizations:

6

- That have a mission which is **primarily** concerned with the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences
- Offer cultural programs in Massachusetts and maintain year-round operations in MA
- Have 501(c)3 status which is currently active
- Are in operation, or have intent to reopen
- Were incorporated prior to 6/30/2019

Program Eligibility Continued

Applicant must be able to document a loss of revenue due to COVID-19 between March 10, 2020 and December 31, 2020 equal to or greater than requested assistance.

We are not asking you to attach documentation for your losses to this application. However, we may ask for it in the future, so you should keep the record of how you calculated the loss of earned or contributed revenue. This could include:

- Canceled classes, performances, exhibitions, shows, residencies, festivals, fundraising events, etc.
- Organizational closures and/or suspended operations
- Lost sales, commissions, vendor fees from cancelled markets, events, exhibitions, etc.

Ineligible organizations include, but are not limited to:

8

- For Profit organizations
- Individuals, and unincorporated organizations
- Orgs with primary mission NOT primarily arts, humanities, interpretive sciences
- Colleges, universities, private/non-profit secondary schools
- Municipal organizations

Eligibility vs Preference

9

What's the difference?

Eligibility: determines if you can apply

Preference: determines how we will award funds

Preference is given to orgs whose primary mission is:

10

- Presenting, promoting, and/or preserving the cultural traditions, art, history, and creative expression of people of color, women, people with disabilities, veterans, immigrants, people who are LGBTQIA+, and members of other historically underrepresented and underfunded groups, **or**
- Advancing and/or supporting artists who are people of color, women, people with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQIA+, and members of other underrepresented and underfunded groups.

Preferences continued....

11

- Orgs not able to reopen/fully reopen
- Orgs that haven't received other COVID-19 federal aid
- Orgs that own/lease and operate a facility
- Orgs in a Gateway City, under-resourced rural town, a State-designated Cultural District, a BID, a Transformative Development Initiative District

Preferences ARE NOT eligibility requirements.

Application:

12

- <https://mass.gosmart.org>
- **Deadline with all attachments is December 11, 2020, 11:59:59pm ET**
 - Must include your 2019 IRS form 990 or 990-EZ
 - May substitute 2018 IRS form 990 if 2019 is not complete. Do not submit 2020 IRS form 990
 - Must include documentation of the expenses that this grant will cover. Expenses must have occurred between Mar 10 and Dec 31, 2020
 - Late, incomplete, or incorrect applications will not be eligible.

The application

13

- **What amount can an org apply for?**
 - You may apply for the lesser of \$100,000 or 3 months of supported expenses (from 2019 IRS Form 990)
 - The lost revenue you report must equal or exceed your request
- **How do you determine this?**
 - Look at your 2019 IRS form 990. 3 months = 25%. You can apply for up to 25% of your eligible expenses from last year, with a maximum of \$100,000
 - Small Org eligible expenses include all operating expenses (except capital)

What can I spend the grant on?

14

- You have to provide documentation for the expenses that this grant will pay for. Only expenses thru Dec. 31 are eligible.
- For orgs with more than 10 FTEs, the expenses are payroll and benefit costs, current mortgage payments and mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations
- Orgs with 10 or fewer FTEs can use grant funds on operating expenses excluding the list of prohibited expenses.
- **You cannot include expenses covered by PPP funds.**

What is documentation of expenses?

For Personnel Costs: IRS form 941, payroll statements from your payroll company, invoices from insurance providers, other statements that show that you paid for salaries and benefits for employees. Payments made to independent contractors are not eligible.

15

For Occupancy Costs: mortgage or lease statements, utility bills, bank statements that show interest on debt.

For Small Organizations: bills/invoices/receipts for anything that is not on the prohibited list on the website

Make one PDF of ALL OF THE documentation and attach to the application. Emailed materials will not be accepted.

What is Extraordinary Need?

On an extremely limited basis, Mass Cultural Council and EOHE reserve the option to consider awards exceeding \$100,000. Organizations must demonstrate extraordinary need and document that they are facing remarkable challenges that threaten the viability of the organization. These organizations can request up to \$500,000 if they can:

- Clearly articulate the extraordinary need.
- Demonstrate more than \$500,000 in lost revenue (between 3/10/20 and 12/31/20).
- Demonstrate 3 months of supported operating expenses of at least \$500,000.
- Provide invoice(s) for eligible* expenses of **at least \$500,000** in expenses incurred in any three-month period occurring between 3/10/20 and 12/31/20.

What is the timeline for this program?

17

The application is open now: visit <https://mass.gosmart.org>

Application Deadline: December 11, 2020 at 11:59:59pm ET

Award notification and contracts emailed: early January 2021

Deadline to return contracts via mail – January 19, 2021

Funds disbursed: upon receipt of your signed contract, and in compliance with the Commonwealth's fiscal systems.

Who is working on this grant program?

18



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Questions?

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