



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Humanities Council changes grant-making policies

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) announces a change in its grant-making procedures to help sustain non-profit organizations that are important partners with the NHC in providing access to humanities programming for all Nebraskans. The NHC will implement an open-budget policy and suspend its repeat-funding requirements for the grants it awards to encourage partner organizations to focus on their mission and sustain their core programming to survive difficult economic times.

The new policy is available to organizations that have had a successful program history with the NHC during the past 10 years, and will be applied based on the size of the organizations' annual operating budgets.

Organizations with annual operating budgets under \$100,000 will be eligible to spend 100% of awarded grant funds with an open budget, provided that the organization implements the project described in the grant proposal.

Organizations with annual operating budgets of \$100,000 to \$1 million will be eligible to spend 75% of awarded funds with an open budget with 25% tied to the budget submitted with the grant application.

Organizations with annual operating budgets over \$1 million will be eligible to spend 25% with an open budget with 75% tied to the submitted budget.

Organizations that are new to NHC programming would be held to the NHC's standard 20% limit on administrative expenses. Once the organization has successfully completed a Council-funded project, the open-budget guidelines would apply.

"Cultural and educational organizations all across our state are struggling with the impact of the economic down-turn just at a time when Nebraskans most need low-cost cultural activities and educational opportunities close to home," NHC Executive Director Jane Renner Hood said. "The Nebraska Humanities Council and Foundation hope that these grant changes will help our partners survive hard financial times as well as provide public humanities programs for their communities."

Organizations of any size, new to NHC or not, whose applications are responding to NHC's program emphasis on the demographic changes affecting Nebraska's future are eligible for 100% open-budget grant funding if the primary purpose of that organization is to address that change. The demographic changes emphasized are the influx of immigrants and refugees, the population shift from rural to urban and suburban and the aging of Nebraska's population.

The new open-budget policy will be evaluated annually to determine its effectiveness and the general economic need for this additional administrative support.

MORE

The NHC offers Major Grants for more than \$1,500 at two grant cycles a year with application deadlines of Aug. 1 and March 1. Mini Grants are for \$1,500 or less with six deadlines a year—July 1, Sept. 1, Nov. 1, Jan. 1, March 1, and May 1.

NHC grant applications may now be submitted online at www.nebraskahumanities.org. In 2009 online submission is not required, but is strongly encouraged. Beginning Jan. 1, online submission will be required.

For details on applying for a grant and the new policies, visit the website or call Mary Yager at (402) 474-2131 ext. 103 or Erika Hamilton at ext. 104.

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