



States Leading Creative Aging Grant Guidelines FAQs

Can state arts agencies submit more than one application?

No. State arts agencies may submit only one application, for up to \$100,000.

Is a funding match required?

No. The commitment of state or private matching funds beyond the grant amount certainly is valuable (and, if present, should be listed in the project budget). However, to make this opportunity universally available to all state arts agencies regardless of budget circumstances, matching funds are not a requirement.

Our agency is prohibited from programming. Can we use this award for granting?

Yes, SLCA grant awards can be used for grant making. Please note, however, that such grants should be adjudicated by the state arts agency; must focus on sequential, skill based and socially engaged programs (aligning with pages 2-5 of the [Grant Guidelines](#)), and follow the SLCA parameters for allowable/unallowable activities and expenses.

Can I apply for funds to support artist performances or exhibits offered to senior populations?

No. While NASAA recognizes the value of such enrichment events, the purpose of these funds is to support the systems and structures for deeper arts learning experiences. See pages 4-5 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) for more information on those parameters.

What if our project addresses a different priority than those listed on page 3?

NASAA recognizes that state arts agencies will have diverse circumstances and a variety of strategic objectives. For full transparency, the priorities listed on page 3 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) reflect some shared interests of NASAA and E.A. Michelson Philanthropy. However, your project certainly may take a different approach. Use the application narrative to tell us about *your* priorities and how they align with the creative aging needs of your state. All applications will receive full panel consideration, using the adjudication criteria, as long as they are complete and avoid unallowable activities (see page 5 of the [Grant Guidelines](#)).

In our state, we have seen powerful arts based programs that serve older adults with health conditions like dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc. Are programs that focus on specific medical conditions eligible for funding?

It depends on their curricular design, but in many cases the answer to this question is no. SLCA is designed to be a lifelong learning program, not a health care or expressive arts therapy program. SLCA activities must support educational programming that is sequential, skills based and socially engaged. Social engagement alone is not sufficient.

As a best practice for serving older adult populations, SLCA programs certainly can be designed to accommodate participants who may have a variety of health conditions or accessibility needs. Such accessibility accommodations are valid expenditures of SLCA funds. But please note that *SLCA cannot fund projects that are primarily intended as clinical interventions, arts therapies or health enrichment activities.*

Can a different organization (other than a state arts agency) serve as a fiscal agent for our award?

Yes. The state arts agency needs to be the lead applicant and grantee of record, and must be responsible for the oversight of any initiative funded through this program. If it is more efficient for a state arts agency to receive funds or deliver services through a separate partner entity, that entity may serve as the fiscal agent for the award. NASAA will require a letter of agreement describing the role and commitment of that partner entity prior to final grant approval.

Can state arts agencies partner together on parts of their projects or undertake certain activities as a multistate consortium? If so, how would you advise they present that application?

Yes, you may partner with another state arts agency or agencies if you believe it would enhance the impact or efficiency of your creative aging work. Each state arts agency must submit an individual grant application, which will be adjudicated (and potentially awarded or declined) on its own merits. If a portion of your proposed project takes a multistate approach, please clearly describe how that collaboration will benefit your state. Any proposed partnership opportunity, whether it's a partnership among state arts agencies or cross-sector agencies within a single state, should take into account how partnerships will be reviewed in terms of all four adjudication criteria (see pages 9-10 of the [Grant Guidelines](#)).

How do you define *older adult*? Is there a specific age bracket within which state arts agencies must abide?

Within reason, you may use whatever parameters are most meaningful for your state. A few general reference points: Many government agencies define older adults as individuals age 65+. Individuals may commence Social Security benefit withdrawals starting at age 62. E.A. Michelson Philanthropy defines its target population as individuals "55 and better."

Can funds be used to train people other than teaching artists, such as state arts agency staff or council members, arts organizations, or service providers for older adults?

Yes. State arts agencies may use these grant funds to expand awareness of creative aging, combat ageism and promote the arts as a powerful ingredient in thriving for older adults. Funds also may be used to promote the readiness of community sites to host/organize creative aging programs.

What is fair artist compensation?

NASAA and state arts agencies recognize the value of artists' time and expertise, and share a commitment to compensating artists for every aspect of their involvement in a project: offering feedback, serving in an advisory capacity, delivering an artistic service or product, etc. Fair compensation rates depend, in part, on local markets as well as the duration and complexity of the engagement, the experience level of the artist, and other factors. State arts agencies are encouraged to consult artists and teaching artists in your region to learn more about average daily and hourly rates in your area. Pay rates referenced within existing state arts agency guidelines/policies for residencies or arts instruction may also serve as a guidepost.

Are state arts agencies allowed to contract out any services related to our project?

Using SLCA grant funds to pay for contractors is an allowable expense. Please include these funds in the Consultants/Subcontracts section of the Project Budget form submitted with your application.

What if the expense or income categories my state uses differ from those that appear on the Project Budget form?

NASAA knows that each state arts agency must comply with unique state accounting systems and related revenue/expense classifications. For the purposes of your SLCA grant application, please categorize all expenses according to the examples supplied on the Project Budget form. Use the form as a descriptive tool to show the panel how you intend to use SLCA funds, even if that line item may ultimately get classified slightly differently in your agency's internal accounting system. If you have any questions about how to categorize a particular expense or revenue item, contact NASAA's [Arts Learning Projects Director](#) for help. Note that NASAA does not require you to include your state arts agency budget in your application materials.

How do I complete the budget form?

To complete the Project Budget form, please estimate the total expenses and revenue you anticipate needing to complete your proposed project. This is a nonmatching grant, and the presence or absence of additional funds will not be a factor in the adjudication of this grant opportunity. If you do anticipate securing/using additional funds to complete your project, however, please use

the form to itemize them so that NASAA can better understand how creative aging will be supported in your state. Please consult pages 4-5 of the [Grant Guidelines](#) for notes on allowable expenses and activities. Round all budget figures to the nearest whole dollar. Total project income must equal total project expenses in order for your application to be adjudicated by the panel.

How do I submit a complete application?

Please email NASAA Arts Learning Projects Director Susan Oetgen (susan.oetgen@nasaa-arts.org) for log-in and password to access application forms found on NASAA's [Creative Aging web page](#). A complete application includes the submission of a Project Details summary (fillable Adobe Acrobat form), a Project Budget (fillable Adobe Acrobat form), and a Project Narrative (to be saved and submitted as a PDF). To prepare your Project Narrative document, follow the guidance found in the Project Narrative Instructions. Be certain to address all the questions (in no more than six pages), keeping the adjudication criteria in mind. Please submit your complete Project Details form, Project Budget form and Project Narrative as PDF attachments via email to creativeaging@nasaa-arts.org. Once all three components have been submitted, you will receive a confirmation email. Please do not include any supplemental materials or additional attachments with your application. Panelists will review and score proposals solely on the basis of information included in the three required PDF documents.

What if I have additional questions?

NASAA will host virtual office hours on Wednesdays, March 1, 22 and 29, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern, to answer questions and help applicants prepare their materials. For additional inquiries about the grant program or the application submission process, or to request one-on-one technical assistance, please email NASAA Arts Learning Projects Director Susan Oetgen at susan.oetgen@nasaa-arts.org.