Greetings! If you have selected this grant application, it is because you are working in a rural community in Illinois and have aspirations to do - or continue doing - work that harnesses the arts and humanities and other cultural work in community building. This grant application is for you if you are applying for a Rural Initiative Individual Grant; if you are applying as an organization, then choose the "Foreground Rural Initiative | Organization" application on the Apply page. We are eager to learn about you, and your goals and aspirations! Remember that you can take a break if you need to and return to the application later if you like. If you would rather do the application process as an interview, reach out to us right away (as we can only accommodate limited requests for this). For that or other questions, please reach out to Mark Hallett at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org.

How did you learn of this grants opportunity?
Check all that apply:

**Choices**
- Illinois Humanities newsletter
- Illinois Humanities website
- Illinois Humanities social media
- Word of mouth

Another source:

*Character Limit: 100*

Is your organization located in a rural community in Illinois?

*Working definition of a ‘rural’ organization:*
The adjective “rural” is notoriously difficult to define, and its usage varies widely from one context to another. For purposes of this initiative, Illinois Humanities proposes to consider an organization “rural” if it meets at least two of the following four criteria:

1. it is located in a county with a population density of 150 or fewer residents per square mile;
2. it is located either in an unincorporated area or in a village, town, or city with a population of 7,500 or fewer residents;
3. it is located at least 20 miles from the nearest city with a population of 75,000 or more;
4. it has an explicit mission to serve rural communities or people who reside in rural locations.
We will revise these criteria as needed based on input from partner organizations and consultants.

If "Yes", then you are eligible to apply for this grant offering. If ‘No’, then perhaps your organization is not eligible for this grants opportunity. However, if you’d like to make the case for your eligibility, please email Mark Hallett at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org before moving forward with the application.

**Choices**
Yes
No

**Will you be using a Fiscal Sponsor for this project?**
Note: A Fiscal Sponsor is an established IRS 501c3 tax-exempt organization that agrees to accept donations on behalf of another group that does not have IRS tax-exempt status. The Fiscal Sponsor is different than the organization applying for the grant and proposing the project.

**Choices**
Yes
No

**PROJECT CONTACT**
The following questions are about the Applying Individual.

**Project Director Biography:**
*Character Limit: 1250*

To better understand the statewide cultural sector, we’d like to ask a few questions about demographics with regards to the proposed project.

**Please indicate the race/ethnicity of the Applying Individual:**
*Character Limit: 100*

**Please indicate the gender of the Applying Individual:**
*Character Limit: 250*

**W9:**
Please upload a completed W-9 form on behalf of the Applying Individual.
*File Size Limit: 3 MB*
Fiscal Sponsor:*  
Note: A Fiscal Sponsor is an established IRS tax-exempt organization that agrees to accept donations on behalf of another group or individual that does not have IRS tax-exempt status. The Fiscal Sponsor is different than the applicant applying for the grant and proposing the project.

Choices
Yes
No

FISCAL SPONSOR  
The following questions are about the Fiscal Sponsor; beyond this, when we say the Applying Organization we are referring to the organization, program or individual that is applying to carry out this project, not the Fiscal Sponsor. Note that working with a Fiscal Sponsor is simply an option, not obligatory.

Fiscal Sponsor Name:*  
*Character Limit: 250

Fiscal Sponsor Address:*  
*Character Limit: 250

Fiscal Sponsor Contact Name:*  
*Character Limit: 250

Fiscal Sponsor Contact Position/Title:*  
*Character Limit: 250

Fiscal Sponsor Contact Email:*  
*Character Limit: 250

PROJECT NARRATIVE  
Amount Requested:*  
The Rural Initiative grants to individuals are for as much as $5000. How much funding are you seeking from Illinois Humanities?  
*Character Limit: 20
Please describe the project for which you are seeking funding from Illinois Humanities.*
Include the project name, basic description, approximate timeline (including any significant events), how funds would be used, how the project will harness the arts and humanities in rural community building, any partnerships, your relevant experience, etc.

*Character Limit: 1500

Please describe the community you hope to engage with through this project.*
Include a description of the community, how many people would hopefully be involved, your relationship to them, etc.

*Character Limit: 1000

How would you describe the community you are working in?*
We’re interested in knowing a little bit about your community. Include for example where you are located, any relevant demographics, local geography, cultural assets, etc.

*Character Limit: 1250

AUDIENCE

Does your organization prioritize any of the following communities?*
Check all that apply. If you are a public serving organization, like a public library, then please only choose specific communities that you prioritize outreach and programming for.

Choices
- Communities of color
- Communities highly impacted by mass incarceration
- Low-income individuals (defined as living at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guideline)
- Rural communities
- None of these communities

In what ways does your organization engage with these indicated communities?*

*Character Limit: 1000

Additional Comment:
Is there any information we have not requested, but which you feel is important for Illinois Humanities to consider in evaluating your application?

*Character Limit: 1250