



ILLINOIS
HUMANITIES

NOW OFFERING —

GENERAL OPERATING GRANTS

After providing Emergency Relief and Recovery General Operating Grants to meet the needs of humanities organizations throughout COVID-19, Illinois Humanities is pleased to announce that we will permanently be offering General Operating Grants as part of our Community Grants Initiative.

General Operating Grant cycles will alternate with Project-Based grants. The first cycle **deadline is September 15th, 5:00 p.m. CST.** These \$5,000 unrestricted grants are available to non-profit humanities organizations in Illinois that have an operating budget of \$500,000 or less.

WHAT IS A GENERAL OPERATING GRANT?

General Operating grants, or unrestricted grants, are meant to support organizations without strings attached. Whereas a project grant is generally tied to specific goals, budget, timeline, and activities, General Operating funding is to be used at the discretion of the awardee.

DOES MY ORGANIZATION QUALIFY?

These \$5,000 unrestricted grants are available to non-profit humanities organizations (you do not need 501(c)3 status so long as your organization is tax-exempt) in Illinois that have an operating budget of \$500,000 or less. We are giving special consideration to partnering with historically underserved, under-funded communities, BIPOC-led organizations, rural organizations, and those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

There are some restrictions — no international travel, alcohol, or political advocacy, for example, and you cannot use the entire budget for construction or equipment.



WHAT DEFINES A HUMANITIES ORGANIZATION?

Organizations that fulfill any of the categories below qualify. These categories have been adapted from the Humanities Indicators project led by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.¹

Cultural and Ethnic Organizations —

Organizations dedicated to the study, preservation, and/or dissemination of the history and culture of ethnic groups.

History Organizations —

Historical societies, historical preservation groups, historic houses, folklore/folklife organizations, place-based learning organizations, and other organizations with a historical focus.

Humanities Education —

Organizations that offer classes, seminars, and workshops in the humanities.

Humanities Museums —

Organizations that acquire, preserve, research, exhibit, and provide for the educational use of works of art or objects/artifacts related to the study of humanities content.

Libraries and Archives —

Operating libraries, archives, and combination museum-libraries.

Literature Organizations —

Organizations that promote the study or appreciation of books and/or literature and the promotion of literacy.

Media, Journalism, and Documentary Organizations —

Organizations committed to covering humanities themes and/or telling the stories, happenings, and histories of communities that are informed by the members of those communities, challenge predominant narratives, and/or nurture critical analysis of media.

Consortiums, alliances, collectives of above-named groups



HOW TO APPLY

The deadline to apply is September 15th, 5:00 p.m. CST — no exceptions. Applications will be available on our website here: ilhumanities.org/GenOps. The application will ask you if your organization is based in Cook County or outside of Cook County.

If you are seeking a project-based grant for your organization, the next cycle of applications will be available on September 16, 2022 with a January 16, 2023, deadline.

Questions? Concerns? Unsure if your organization qualifies? Please reach out to Mark Hallett, Director of Grant Programs at mark.hallett@ilhumanities.org.

¹ <https://www.amacad.org/humanities-indicators>