



Humanities Tennessee

SHARP Grant Applicant FAQs

When can I apply for a grant?

The application is available online beginning September 30, 2021. The submission deadline is November 30, 2021, at 11:59 PM.

How does my organization apply?

Complete and submit a "Request for Application" form from our SHARP [web page](#). We will send a code to access our online grant system, Foundant, which you use to submit your application electronically. We encourage you to start your application EARLY and to make sure it is submitted prior to the submission deadline.

If you are new to the online system, you will need to create an account prior to applying. Once you have created your account and are logged in to your Applicant Dashboard, click "Apply" in the upper left-hand corner. Please bookmark the login page for ease of access.

If you have previously created an account, enter your password and the code. Once on your Applicant Dashboard click "Apply" in the upper left hand corner to view an alphabetical list of all open Humanities Tennessee opportunities. Please bookmark the login page for ease of access. If you need assistance please email paul@humtn.org.

What kinds of activities are supported?

These grants specifically support relief and recovery activities by nonprofit organizations.

- SHARP General Operating Support (GOS) – Supports operating expenses for humanities organizations experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OR

- SHARP Humanities Project Support (HPS) - Supports humanities project/program activities by organizations experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What do you mean by a humanities organization?

A humanities organization has a mission explicitly connected to the humanities along with a track record of specifically working in the humanities, as opposed to a group that occasionally tackles or delves into humanities-based themes or activities.

Can Individuals apply?

No. Humanities Tennessee does not make grants to individuals.

Can my organization apply for both a General Operating Support (GOS) grant AND a Humanities Project Support (HPS) grant?

No. Humanities organizations must apply for a GOS grant, and all other organizations are eligible only for an HPS grant.

Is there a timeline for when grant funds must be spent down?

Yes, all grant funds and all grant supported activities must be concluded November 30, 2022. GOS grants, however, may also include eligible expenses starting from March 15, 2021.

Our primary mission is not public humanities. Is that a problem?

No. However, to be eligible for a GOS grant your organization must have a public humanities-focused mission and have an established track record of providing humanities programming. Organizations that are not exclusively humanities focused are eligible for HPS grants, and must demonstrate in the proposal that the requested funding solely supports humanities activities.

My organization is attached to the city government, are we eligible?

Libraries, parks, K-12 schools and other municipal offices may apply for HPS grants through a foundation, friends group or other support group with nonprofit status. Humanities-based entities such as historical societies and/or museums may apply for GOS grants through their support group, e.g., friends of the museums, etc.

What kinds of groups are eligible to apply for grants?

All applicants must be an accredited public and 501(c)(3) institution, non-profit organization or tax-exempt entity. All organizations must have an EIN (Employer Identification Number) and DUNS number registered to their entity.

Can I consult with Humanities Tennessee staff about my project or as I prepare my proposal?

Yes, if you would like to discuss your organization or the application process with a staff member please email steven@humtn.org. Please note, due to anticipated high volume staff will not be able to review drafts.

When will decisions be made on my proposal?

Humanities Tennessee will announce decisions by December 31, 2021. All decisions will be

announced via our online application management system.

Are matching funds required?

No. SHARP grants do not require matching funds. However, if you are requesting an HPS grant, providing matching funds is welcomed at the time of final reporting.

Does it take a long time to get a DUNS? What if we don't get it in time?

It ordinarily takes 2-4 business days to receive a DUNS number. Please contact staff if your request for a DUNS number is pending when you submit your application. Applicants must have a valid DUNS number to be eligible to receive an award.

What are the funding priorities?

- The application is open to any organization that fits the program's eligibility requirements. ● The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) encourages us to design grant programs that distribute these funds to closely align with the Endowments' shared values around diversity, equity, inclusion and access, and to support organizations whose budgets are small to mid-sized.
- As such, priority will be given to organizations that meet the following considerations: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-centered organizations:
 - A BIPOC-centered organization is an organization with a mission and programming that is explicitly reflective of a community or communities of color, and where the board, staff, artists, and collaborators, include a significant representation of that community.
 - A BIPOC-centered organization is defined by the following organizational characteristics:
 - Primary mission, intentions, and practices are BY, FOR, and ABOUT art, heritages, histories, cultures and communities of color.
 - Intention of the organization is to perpetuate, promote, and present art, heritage, histories, or cultural practices that are representative of a culture, a people, and/or is given form by those cultural practitioners.
- Organizations with annual budgets under \$1,000,000.
- Organizations demonstrating robust diversity, equity, inclusion, and access efforts. ● Organizations demonstrating substantial adverse and ongoing impact from the pandemic. ● Organizations in underserved, rural geographic locations.

What criteria will be used to evaluate our application?

- Is the organization eligible for SHARP funding based on the information provided in the application?
- Does the organization demonstrate coronavirus-hardship?
- Is the proposal consistent with the purpose of the American Rescue Plan to help the organization "prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus"? ● Does the humanities-based project provide public humanities content and

programming services?

- Does the plan for general operating support respond to, and strengthen the organization?
- Does the organization work with, or support under-served, under resourced and/or BIPOC-focused and BIPOC-led institutions and organizations?
- Is the funding ask and the budget allocation reasonable for the proposed work?

How will decisions be made?

Humanities Tennessee will grant awards based on eligibility in relation to the funds available and the established criteria and priorities. To advise this decision making process, we will convene a panel or panels of diverse Tennesseans with relationships to the arts, culture, and humanities community and with consideration of age, gender identity or expression, geography, subdiscipline of arts, culture or humanities experience, and other factors when curating this grant program's panels.

Thank you for reviewing this document, if you didn't see your question covered, please reach out to our staff via email steven@humtn.org

Other Types of Humanities Tennessee Grants In addition to our SHARP Grants, Humanities Tennessee offers other types of grants. Visit our [website](#) for details.