



Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants

Office of Challenge Programs

The purpose of the program is to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. Awards of federal matching funds aim to help institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials. The program supports two distinct types of projects, each with its own Notice of Funding Opportunity:

- Capital Projects support the purchase, design, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities. This includes costs related to planning as well as the purchase and installation of related moveable and permanently affixed equipment for exhibiting, maintaining, monitoring, and protecting collections (whether on exhibit or in storage), and for critical building systems, such as electrical, heating ventilation and air conditioning, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management.
- Digital Infrastructure supports the maintenance, modernization, and sustainability of existing digital scholarly projects and platforms.

Fundraising is a critical part of NEH Challenge grant awards: up to 10 percent of total funds (NEH federal matching funds plus certified gifts) may be used for fundraising costs during the period of performance.

What's new in 2022

- Three levels of awards with different match ratios: For requests up to \$150,000 the match ratio is 1:1. From \$150,001 to \$500,000 it is 3:1. From \$500,001-\$1,000,000 it is 4:1.
- Federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations are eligible for a 1:1 match ratio at all request levels.
- An introductory statement is required in the application narrative.
- Check the NOFO for adjustments to recommended and required page limits and formatting instructions.
- For Capital Projects, the 429A form has been replaced with a conditionally required site description.

Disclaimer: This is not a complete list of all changes to the Notice of Funding Opportunity

A pre-recorded webinar will be available on this page by March 18, 2022.

Grant Snapshot

Maximum award amount

\$1,000,000

Open to

Organizations

Expected output

Buildings;

Digital Infrastructure;

Equipment

Period of performance

Up to five years

Application available

March 14, 2022

Optional Draft due

April 6, 2022

Application due

May 17, 2022

Expected notification date

December 15, 2022

Project start date

March 1, 2023

June 1, 2023

Contact the Office of Challenge Programs Team

(202) 606-8309

challenge@neh.gov