

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION RESOURCE GUIDELINES

FY25

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CORE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION RESOURCE GRANT

● MISSION

- Community Organization Resource Grants (C.O.RE. Grants) provide general operating support to 501(c)3 Organizations with an Arts-, Culture-, and or History-focused mission whose community services uphold the Arts Council’s mission to Embrace Diversity, Promote Individual Creativity, Advance Economic Development, Foster Lifelong Learning Through the Arts, and Connect Our Community. Awards range \$45,000 to \$250,000.

● ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY

- 501(c)3 organization which operates within Arts-, Culture-, and/or History focused mission as evidenced in organization’s Mission Statement, Vision, and/or Values.
- The organization must be based in Cumberland County and provide ongoing Arts-, Culture-, and/or History-focused programs, community services, and educational opportunities for the residents of Cumberland County.
- Programs, community services, and/or educational opportunities must occur in at least six (6) months of the calendar year and must include outreach efforts that affect underserved populations in Cumberland County.
- Organization must have an annual operating budget balanced at or exceeding \$90,000



and can match grant funds 1:1.

- Have an independent audit performed annually (for organizations with an annual budget higher than \$250,000/year); others are required to submit 990.
- Maintain a governing Board that is representative of the diversity of Cumberland County with defined term limits.
- Have a Board-approved Strategic Plan which outlines plans and tactics for sustainability.
- First time applicants will have successfully managed a minimum of three (3) project support grant awards within the preceding three (3) fiscal years (i.e., Organization is a known entity to the Arts Council).
- The organization must employ at least ONE full-time executive leader i.e., organization has at least one staff and is not entirely board-driven.
- Must have been in continuous operation for at least five (5) years.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS



- Educational Institutions
- Religious Institutions
- Municipal Entities
- Presenting Organizations
- Organizations operating within unplanned deficits on EOY financial statements the prior two (2) fiscal years (unless approved by Arts Council staff).



APPLICATION PROCESS



o New Entities/Every third year: “Full Application.”

- Narrative Questions in Community Impact and Collaboration, Program Excellence and Innovation, Management Excellence and Transparency, Financial Stability and Accountability, Marketing, and Cultural Tourism
- Work Samples
- Three-year budget comparison (FY23 to FY25)
- Organizational Documents

o Returning entities will complete an “Update Application” for the two cycles between full applications are due.

- YTD Budget Update & Proposed Next FY Budget
- YTD Scope of Services Update & Proposed Scope of Services for Next FY
- YTD Education & Outreach Update & Proposed Education & Outreach Services for Next FY.

EVALUATION

A panel composed of Grants Assessment Committee and other Board of Trustees review CORE grant requests in a round-table discussion following a scheduled site visit with ACFCC staff and trustees.

Requests are evaluated along the following:

ARTS, CULTURE, AND/OR HISTORY PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AND MERIT (50 POINTS – 10PTS EACH)

- Organization shows ability to create and execute Arts-, Culture-, and/or History-focused community service which is innovative for Cumberland



- County.
- Organization demonstrates high-quality programming and community service that is consistent with contemporary industry standards and clearly aligns with the organization's mission, vision, and values.
- Organizational work samples and partnerships show great knowledge and commitment to their discipline(s).
- Organization's community services add to the cultural vibrancy of Cumberland County as evidenced through engaged and sustained audiences.
- Organization's community services which clearly uphold the Arts Council's mission to Embrace Diversity, Promote Individual Creativity, Advance Economic Development, Foster Lifelong Learning Through the Arts, and Connect Our Community.

COMMUNITY IMPACT (25 POINTS - 5 POINTS EACH)

- Programs and community services clearly establish the organization as a community connector, taking actions to develop and deepen partnerships across the community.
- Programs and community services are designed to embrace and reflect the various voices and demographics of the Cumberland County Community. ■ Organization creates opportunities for positive economic impact on local artistic, cultural, and history-focused professionals.
- Evidence of the applicant's commitment to develop new participants and audiences, specifically underserved and underrepresented populations.
- Organization programming with equitable access that considers socio economic, racial/ethnic, geographic, and physical barriers.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (25 POINTS – 5PTS EACH)

- Commitment of the leadership to be transparent in conducting the business of the organization as evidenced through accurate reporting, site visits, and past performance with ACFCC staff and board .
- Professional staff expertise; staff diversity; staff training and appropriate means for evaluating staff performance.
- Active Board involvement and board development.
- Budget should include evidence of realistic planning, strong management, and an effort



to generate income from other appropriate sources with internal controls policies that ensure financial accountability.

- Organization shows growth from FY to FY as evidenced by audience
- Development and diversifying income.