

Arts Education Special Initiative

Arts Education Special Initiative (AESI) grants are awarded to recipients of GOS or GPS to support development or expansion of program that make substantial contributions to quality arts education in schools. This grant category intends to aid arts organizations in developing their full potential as community resources to educational systems throughout New Jersey and create a stronger infrastructure for arts education statewide.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to receive a grant under this program, an applicant must:

1. Have clearly articulated artistic mission and focus for the organization, program or project seeking support.
2. Be incorporated in the state of New Jersey as a nonprofit corporation or be a unit of government. K-12 schools and school districts are not eligible, but may be a partner or collaborator on a project with an eligible applicant. Schools may seek artist residency support through the Artists in Education program.
3. Be tax-exempt by determination of the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with Sections 501(c)3 or (c)4.
4. Be registered with the NJ Charities Registration Bureau.
5. At the time of application, have been in existence and actively providing public programs or services for at least the past two years.
6. Have a board of directors empowered to formulate policies and be responsible for the governance and administration of the organization, its programs and finances.
7. Demonstrate regional or statewide public impact through the organization's programs or project. Regional is defined as serving audiences across a two or more county region of New Jersey. Those organizations and projects that are local in impact should apply for State Council support through their respective County Arts Agency, which receives a Local Arts Program grant for this purpose. Local impact is defined as serving audiences primarily from communities within a single county. Generally, if less than 24% of the audience currently served is from outside the county, the organization, program or project would be classified as local in impact. An organization or project located near a county border that may serve audiences in an adjacent county or counties may still be regarded as local based on the limited number of communities within those counties which are served by the organization or project. In the Notice of Intent to Apply the applicant must demonstrate that the organization or project already serves a regional audience, or if the project is new that the organization has a track record of providing services of some kind to a regional (multi-county) area.

There are three exceptions to the regional impact eligibility requirement: 1) Arts Education Special Initiative projects proposed by eligible General Operating and General Program Support applicants/grantees may be local in their impact. 2) Arts in Communities projects and 3) Building Arts Participation may focus on a local community, however the applicant organization must have a regional impact overall.

Applicants may apply either to the Council or to the County Arts Agency, not both, in a given year.

Prospective NJSCA applicants that have been receiving support through their County Arts Agency up to now should attend a scheduled NJSCA grant workshop, work closely with Council staff and their County Arts Agency in filing their Notice of Intent to Apply, and may also want to schedule a meeting early in the process with Council staff. Because the funding periods for the County Arts Agency grants and the State Council grants overlap by six months, applicants should discuss their situation in advance of the Notice of Intent to Apply with the State Council to determine eligibility.

8. Comply with all pertinent state and federal regulations including, but not necessarily limited to Fair Labor Standards (regarding the payment of fair wages and the maintenance of safe and sanitary working conditions), the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (all barring discrimination on, among other things, the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex); the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (guaranteeing the maintenance of same); and Section 1913 of 18 U.S.C. and Section 319 or P.L.

101-121 (barring lobbying when in the receipt of federal funds). Apart from all other provisions of law, particularly the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which bear upon all Council grantees, those grantees whose Council grant is composed all or in part of funds derived from the National Endowment for the Arts will be required to be in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 at the time of and as a condition of receipt of the grant under penalty of rescission and any others set forth under law.

9. Be a GOS or GPS applicant/grantee.

For more information please see the complete [Program Guidelines](#)

[Apply for an Arts Education Special Initiative grant](#)