



King County and the Washington Festivals & Events Association (WFEA) have launched a Request for Applications (RFA) for the King County Festivals and Events Grant Program (Program). The Program will deliver \$1.9 million in ARPA COVID-19 relief funds to the County's festivals and events industry in response to the needs of event and festival producers seeking to reestablish community activities, events, festivals, and celebrations in a safe environment, while engaging residents and tourists throughout the County and employing event workers, working creatives, and culture bearers.

Based on WFEA's membership alone, we estimate that King County sustained \$50 million in economic losses from over 700 festival and event cancellations since March 2020. Undoubtedly, the event sector has been impacted more than almost any other during this pandemic. King County and WFEA know that special events and festivals must reopen so that people can gather to celebrate culture, diversity, and the arts again.

WFEA welcomes the opportunity to join King County in supporting eligible festivals and events organizations, events-based local businesses, and other events producers in need of funding to support their reopening. Through this program, we will:

- Mitigate revenue losses incurred by the festivals and events industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Provide a safe and flexible environment for those operating, working, and attending the festivals and events in King County, and
- Support job creation and economic recovery for small business vendors and cultural organizations prohibited by state order from doing business since March 13, 2020.

Applicant eligibility encompasses a wide variety of organizations, including:

- nonprofit and for-profit festivals and events organizations, chambers of commerce, cities, tourism entities, tribal entities, or organizations that produce events with paid or volunteer-based staff;
- organizers of a festival or event held/to be held within the boundaries of King County; and
- that cancelled in-person events at least once during the past 16 months and will reopen in 2021 or 2022, among other eligibility criteria listed in the RFA.

The funds will be distributed in two categories of award size:

Large events - with an operating budget over \$250,000 per year	\$950,000
Small events - with an operating budget under \$250,000 per year	\$950,000
TOTAL:	\$1.9 million

WFEA will provide program outreach and marketing services for the Program; deliver technical assistance to applicants; and provide industry advisory and liaison services to King County during the evaluation of grant applications.

To apply, please review the RFA and complete an application before the due date of November 11, 2021, 11:59 PM (PT). Questions about this funding opportunity may be addressed to info@wfea.org.