



The Library of Congress

Of the People: Widening the Path: Community Collections Grants to Organizations

Notice of Funding Opportunity 030ADV22R0061 – Year 2

5-31-2022

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Library of Congress is announcing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to award grants in support of contemporary ethnographic field research focusing on the cultures and traditions of diverse communities across the United States. This funding opportunity is authorized by 20 U.S.C. 2101, et. seq. The resulting award will be subject to the Library of Congress Regulation (LCR) 7-310 (Grants and Cooperative Agreements) and provisions of [2 CFR 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#) as indicated.

A.1 Background

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library has dedicated significant resources to collecting born-digital materials and digitizing its tangible collections. The Library's Digital Strategy (www.loc.gov/digital-strategy) outlines the ways that technology and digital approaches can enable the Library to meet its goal of ensuring that "All Americans are connected to the Library of Congress." The Library's mission is to engage, inspire, and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

A.2 Purpose

Through a gift from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Library will support a multiyear initiative that entails public participation in the creation of archival collections. Specifically, the Library of Congress seeks to award grants to support contemporary cultural documentation focusing on the culture and traditions of diverse, often underrepresented communities in the United States today. These projects will result in archival collections preserved at the American Folklife Center and made accessible through the Library of Congress' web site. The major goals of this grant program are to enable communities to document their cultural traditions, practices, and experiences from their own perspectives, while enhancing the Library's holdings with materials featuring creativity and knowledge found at the local level. **As such, successful proposals will come from applicants within or closely affiliated with the community they propose to document.**

Funding through these grants can be used to cover travel, equipment rental or purchase, and other expenses associated with cultural documentation fieldwork. American Folklife Center folklorists and archivists can assist successful applicants in providing support for specific aspects of cultural documentation activities, such as sharing expertise or training in fieldwork methods, archival practices, and associated digital technologies. Library staff will be available to provide technical advice, and work with successful applicants to facilitate a cohort for sharing knowledge and lessons learned. In consultation with American Folklife Center staff during the award process, awardees have the option to develop public programs connected to their projects in their home communities, as potentially supported by additional funds (see [Section A.4.1](#)). The American Folklife Center is seeking to build long-term relationships with grantees and to give grantees the opportunity to present their work in a forum at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

The following list is meant to inspire, but not limit, possibilities with regards to cultural documentation projects applicants might propose. Projects should include a combination of interviews, still photography, digital video, field notes, or other forms of documentation:

- Exploration of a community festival or other culturally-meaningful celebration through interviews with organizers and participants, audio-visual documentation of activities affiliated with the event (including planning, set up, and post-event activity), and any ephemera or material culture

- Seasonal or periodic documentation of institutions or gathering places, such as farmers markets, informal social hang-outs, craft fairs, or other periodic spaces that might serve as anchors or markers of community
- Community-centric reflection on emergent cultural traditions or practices that have developed as responses to shared collective experience of widespread recent phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice movements, or economic change
- Broad examination of community-specific cultural practices that can serve as markers of various aspects of identity, such as practices around death or bereavement, life milestones, or transition into different modes or phases of living; transmission of language or other intangible aspects of heritage; or informally learned aspects of communication that help cohere a social group
- Community history of a neighborhood or other type of geographically-delimited collective space that tracks change and continuity from the perspective of current residents, both long-term and newly arrived, via multi-format documentation
- Documentation focused on temporality, such as tracing traditions and their changes over time, which can include multi-sited projects, but do not need to be delimited geographically.

A.2.1 Potential projects that are not fundable

The following types of projects would not qualify for funding through this program:

- Projects that are focused solely on oral history, in which contemporary cultural activity is not documented and only one format or mode of documentation is used
- Projects focused narrowly on the life history of an individual or family
- Projects that tend solely to events, cultural activity, or communities from the past (i.e. there is no contemporary presence or manifestation)

A.3 Program Expectations and Deliverables

A.3.1 Cultural documentation project

Design, develop and implement a project that enables communities to document their cultural life and experiences from their own perspectives, while enriching the Library's holdings with diverse materials. The project must feature creativity, knowledge, and/or cultural activity found at the local level in existing communities. Successful applications will come from organizations closely affiliated with the community they propose to document. In addition to providing collection materials to the Library, awardees may also retain copies for deposit and preservation in local institutions.

A.3.2 Enhance the Library's Archive of Folk Culture

Successful applicants agree to provide the American Folklife Center with the cultural documentation materials created during the period of performance of the grant. Successful applicants may also choose to keep copies of the collection materials in the community, and American Folklife Center staff can offer technical assistance and guidance to support local stewardship. The Library intends to be attentive to culturally sensitive materials that may be included in a project, and will work with grant awardees to determine the most appropriate approach regarding access. Successful applicants must adhere to ethical standards for cultural documentation, including obtaining consent and permissions to conduct fieldwork and deposit materials at the Library of Congress. The Library will provide Library-approved release forms.

Successful applicants must submit documentation in digital formats using American Folklife Center metadata forms for descriptive, administrative, technical and other data. In addition to audio or video interviews, submitted materials must include time-coded logs or time-coded transcripts and permission and release forms signed by interviewees. Library staff will provide training and information regarding

accepted Library of Congress standards and practices for submitting collections. All digital submissions will be in accordance with the following specifications:

- Digital audio: 96 kHz/24bit or 44.1 kHz/16bit .wav file (only .wav files will be accepted).
- Digital video: high-resolution digital video format (consult with AFC staff for specifications)
- Digital images: high-resolution digital images, uncompressed and nonproprietary file formats (TIFF)
- Text files (for logs, field notes, final report, etc.): Microsoft Word

A.3.3 Participate in symposium

Successful applicants will be invited to participate in a symposium in 2024 hosted by the Center at the Library of Congress. Representatives from projects funded in each year may agree to participate in the non-mandatory symposium to share elements of their documentation and discuss their experiences. The Library will pay travel separately, and participation will not impact a grant award and should not be included in proposed project costs.

A.3.4 Contribute to blog

All successful applicants will be asked to write posts for the Library blog(s) about relevant topics.

A.4 Overview of Selection Process

The Library will use a panel review process to evaluate all eligible and complete applications against the criteria listed in Section E of this document. Panelists are professionals in the Library and/or field with relevant knowledge and expertise in the types of project activities identified in the application. The selecting official will review panel recommendations and make final funding decisions consistent with the purposes of the program's mission and goals.

Applications will be evaluated primarily for:

- Advancement of program goals
- Feasibility of project outcomes
- Alignment of applicant background and experience
- Reasonableness of costs and likelihood that budget will support project execution

[Section E. Application Review](#) provides more detailed information about evaluation criteria.

A.4.1 Optional public program

During the award process, awardees have the option to discuss with American Folklife Center staff the possible development of a public program(s) connected to their projects in their home communities. Such programs would be designed to share the project locally, among source communities and the public. Hosting a public program is not required, but the option to do so may be supported with up to \$10,000 in separate, additional funds provided by the American Folklife Center, as part of the Of the People: Widening the Path initiative.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Federal Agency Name:	Library of Congress (Library)
Opportunity Title	Of the People: Widening the Path: Community Collections grant (organization)
Opportunity Number	030ADV22R0061

Period of Performance	12 months
Proposal Submission Deadline	August 1, 2022 at 12:00 PM (Noon) Eastern Time
Expected Start Date:	November 30, 2022 (earliest)
Estimated Funds Available and Number of Awards	The Library of Congress intends to award up to 10 Grants pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. The Library's intention is to make grant awards of up to \$50,000.
Optional Public Program	Successful applicants may have the option to host a public program connected to their projects in their home communities. In consultation with American Folklife Center staff, up to an additional \$10,000 may be potentially made available as support. The decision will be made by the Library after agreement has been awarded (see Section A.4.1).
Funding Instrument Type	Cooperative Agreement

The Library reserves the right to select for award any, all, part, or none of the proposals received in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Additionally, the Library may modify the schedule or program areas by amending this NOFO. The amendments will be posted in the same space as this NOFO. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of the amendments by regularly checking the website.

Applicants cannot recover expenses for proposal/application preparation or submission from any awards resulting from this NOFO.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 Eligible Applicants

Applicants may be charitable or similar organizations, for federal tax exempt purposes subject to 26 U.S.C 501 c (3) or similar authority, including institutions of higher education, colleges and universities, as well as professional associations and community groups. For-profit applicants are not eligible. Organizations must be U.S.-based. Eligibility extends to all 50 U.S. states, protectorates, territories, and the District of Columbia. Only one entity may receive the funding.

C.2 Other Eligibility Information

- An eligible applicant organization may submit only one application under this announcement.
- Successful applicants cannot reapply in subsequent years for the same project.
- To be eligible, projects must involve new, original cultural documentation of contemporary cultural life and activities from existing communities within the United States. **This award is not intended to support research projects undertaken for the completion of university degrees.**
- Late, incomplete, or ineligible applications will not be considered for funding under this notice.
- The Library will notify an applicant if their application will not be reviewed due a determination of ineligibility.
- An organization that submits an application may be disqualified if the applicant or any principal has, within the past five years, been subject to a finding of fault or conviction in a Federal or state criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding in connection to the award to or the performance of a Federal grant or contract.

C.3 Cost Sharing

Under this NOFO there is no mandatory cost share or matching requirement, however proposals that include matching or cost sharing elements may be rated more highly. Examples of types of cost sharing may include salaries, space or studio rental costs, equipment not part of an existing indirect cost rate calculation, or supplies. Cost sharing includes contributions, both cash and in-kind, which are necessary and reasonable to achieve program objectives and which are verifiable from the recipient's records.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

D.1 Agency Point of Contact

Contracts and Grants Directorate C/O Grants Officer	Email: AFC-grants@loc.gov
Library of Congress - 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington DC, 20540	

D.2 Questions and Answers

All questions relating to this NOFO must be submitted via email to AFC-grants@loc.gov with answers provided on a rolling basis until 12:00 pm Noon (Eastern Time) on July 15, 2022. Answers will also be provided in an online document hosted at <https://loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/collect-and-preserve/community-collections-grant-application/> The subject of each e-mail must read as follows:
NOFO - 030ADV22R0061 - AFC - 2022.

D.3 Application Package and Submission Requirements

All submissions must be in English, arrive before 12:00pm (noon, Eastern Time) on the due date listed, provide budget and cost information in U.S. Dollars, and meet the specifications of this NOFO. By signing and submitting the application form, the applicant assures and certifies that the applicant will comply with the policies and statutes outlined in [Section. G Federal Award Administration](#) and all related Library regulations. Application materials must be submitted via email to AFC-grants@loc.gov.

D.4 System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration

Successful applicants must be registered on SAM.gov. Information on how to register on SAM.gov can be found in [Appendix A](#).

D.5 Content and Format of Applications

Review all content and information before beginning an application. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the provided Proposal Narrative template attached to this NOFO. The format instructions presented in the template are as follows:

D.5.1 Proposal Narrative and Format

The proposal narrative (see template attached) should include a cover sheet, narrative and appendices as described below. The main body of the proposal must not be longer than 5 double-spaced pages in 11-point or 12-point font. The body of the proposal and any necessary appendices of supporting documents must be combined into one file.

Applicants must submit one (1) electronic file of the proposal narrative (one MS Word version or one PDF version).

The Proposal Narrative must include the following sections:

- A. Cover Page
 - Working title of proposed project
 - Applicant's name, phone number, mailing and email addresses
 - SAM or EIN as applicable
 - Date of submittal
 - A single-spaced (max 200 word) project summary (main aims and project activities)
- B. Project Details (see Project Narrative template provided for additional information)
- C. Appendices
 - Brief resumes for the primary people named in the proposal. For project staff not known by name by the application deadline, applicant should provide a position description that identifies the qualities, range of experience, and education necessary to successfully implement and complete project activities.
 - Letters of support from an administrator at the organization stating support for the proposal and attesting to the impact.
 - Other information described in Section D.5.1.1 below as applicable.

D.5.1.1 Other Information - As Applicable

If any of the following special circumstances are relevant to your specific circumstances, you must include certain information as an attachment to your proposal. List under "Other Information - [Insert Name of the Relevant Section]."

A) Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Recipients must notify the Grant Officer immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arises during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any sub-recipient under the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. The Library will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a potential conflict exists. If it does, the Library will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Library may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.339 Remedies for Noncompliance](#), including termination of the award.

B) Finding of Fault or Convictions in Past 5 Years

If, within the past 5 years, applicant organization or any principal has been subject to a finding of fault or conviction in any Federal or state criminal, civil, or administrative legal proceeding in connection to the award to or the performance of a Federal grant or contract, then you must provide an explanation. The explanation should include information about each proceeding, namely:

- **Instrument.** This is the type of proceedings instrument, such as U.S. Federal issued contract, U.S. Federal issued grant/assistance instrument, State issued contract, and State issued grant.
- **State.** The state where proceeding occurred
- **Instrument Number.** The official number of the proceeding as assigned by instrument.

- **Type of Proceeding**, i.e., Administrative, Criminal, or Civil. Disposition, either Conviction / Finding of Fault or Other acknowledgment of fault.
- **Description of the Proceeding**. A comprehensive description (approx. 500 words) of the proceeding.

C) Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regards to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. In the description, you should:

- Identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision.
- Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and end the statement with "We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the Library of Congress in this application, we will immediately notify the Library of Congress point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing."

D) Single Audit Reporting Statement for Organizations Expenditure More than \$750,000 USD in federal awards.

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System.

U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

E) Applications with Proprietary Data. The Library may share grant applications, work products, and reports with Library employees, external reviewers, or the general public to further the mission of the agency. Therefore, the Library discourages inclusion of proprietary data or information in applications. However, if a proposal contains information that constitutes a trade secret, proprietary commercial or financial information, or similar confidential information, the Library will handle such information in accordance with applicable law and provided that the information is clearly marked by the applicant. Note that any funded proposal will be considered an integral part of the award and normally will be made available to the public upon request and in accordance with applicable law.

Applicants who include proprietary data must mark the cover page with the following: "This application includes marked proprietary data that must not be disclosed, duplicated, used, or disclosed for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, an award is made as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government will have the right to duplicate, use, and disclose the data. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers}." Additionally, the applicant must mark the specific data it wishes to restrict with the following: "Use or disclosure of this data is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application."

D.5.2 Budget Narrative (Justification) – Spending Summary and Plans

To justify final grant amount, applicants must submit the completed Budget Plan Worksheet Template attached to this NOFO and provide a Budget Narrative (Justification) demonstrating a clear connection between expenses and proposed project activities and objectives. The Budget Narrative is distinct from the Proposal, and should be 2-4 pages double-spaced in either 11-point or 12-point font. Dollar amounts referenced in the Budget Narrative must equal amounts identified in the Budget Plan Worksheet.

- Applicants must explain program and administrative costs (including any cost calculations not otherwise identified) to show that project costs are reasonable and will support a successful outcome for the project.
- The Budget Justification should also identify any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See [2 CFR 200.407](#).
- Dollar amount(s) referenced in Budget Narrative, worksheets, and in the Budget Justification should be equal.

A) Provide Budget Summary

If spending plans include Cost Share, applicant should identify any cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, include the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See [2 CFR 200.306](#) “Cost sharing or matching” for more information.

- 1) **Explain Indirect Costs** assigned to the project. Indirect cost rates may not exceed 15%. (Note: the Library of Congress does not adhere to the indirect cost rates negotiated by other federal agencies pursuant to OMB regulations.)

- 2) **Explain Direct Costs:**

- **Salaries, Wages and Benefits.** Identify the people / positions whose salary, wages, or benefits will be paid with project funds, describing their role in the project and their rate of pay or calculation of any wages or stipends. Similarly, identify relevant benefits rate and explain the base for the calculation for each person funded through the project.
 - If cost share is being provided by unpaid volunteers, applications should explain how they arrived at the dollar amount used to represent the value of their services.
 - If applicant is requesting grant funding for salaries of permanent staff, explain the reason for the request and how the regular duties of these individuals will be performed during the award period of performance.
- **Travel.** For each trip, applicant should describe the purpose and expected outcomes of the trip, and explain how they arrived at the dollar amount citing specific examples of relevant costs.
- **Equipment.** Applicant should identify the purpose of any budgeted equipment and explain how they arrived at the dollar amounts by detailing the number and unit cost for each item. Provide vendor quotes or price lists as an appendix along with the application

as needed. If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source.

- **Supplies.** Applicant should identify the purpose of any budgeted supplies and explain how they arrived at the dollar amounts by detailing the number and unit cost for each item. Provide vendor quotes or price lists as an appendix along with the application as needed.
- **Contractual.** List the project activities to be undertaken by third parties for the project, identifying each third party by name, describing their role in the project, and the nature of their relationship with the applicant. Explain costs for third parties and provide relevant supporting documents as an appendix along with the application.
- **Other Costs.** Explain the nature and purpose of costs that cannot be assigned to other categories.

D.5.2.1 Budget Plan Worksheets

- A) Applicants must provide a completed Budget Plan Worksheet using the provided template. If Cost Sharing is not required, applicant should state so in the Budget Plan Worksheet Template and applicant does not need to complete that section of the Budget Plan Worksheet Template.
- B) Spending Plan: In preparing the spending plan, applicant must consider the type, number, and cost of expenses for the duration of the project across defined budget categories:
 - Indirect Costs
 - Direct Costs for: Salaries, Wages and Benefits; Travel; Equipment; Supplies; Contractual; and Other

Budget Definitions are included in [Appendix B](#).

All items listed should be necessary to accomplish project objectives, allowable according to the applicable federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during the award period of performance.

D.5.2.2 Restrictions on Budget/Spending Plans

- A) Applicants may use grant funds only for allowable costs as found in federal government-wide cost principle rules. Please consult [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 3187](#) for additional guidance on allowable costs.
 - Some examples of **generally allowable costs** under this announcement include indirect or overhead costs and direct costs such as: personnel salaries, wages, and fringe benefits; travel expenses for key project staff and consultants; materials, supplies, software, and equipment related directly to project activities; adaptive and/or assistive technologies and other resources and services to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities; third-party costs; publication design and printing; staff and volunteer training
 - Examples of **unallowable costs** under this announcement include: general fundraising or grant management costs; contributions to endowments; general operating support; general advertising or public relations costs designed solely for promotional activities other than those related to the specific project; social activities, ceremonies, receptions, or entertainment

B) Applicants should pay special attention to prohibitions or limitations including:

- Expenses must be incurred during the award period of performance unless otherwise specified and allowed by law.
- All federal, Library, and program requirements regarding the use of funds apply to both requested Library grant funds and to cost sharing.
- Indirect cost rates included in an applicant's proposed budget and narrative may not exceed 15%.
- Federal funds from other federal awards may not be used for cost sharing.

D.5.3 Required Form(s) SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance

All applicants must complete the appropriate standard SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance attached to this NOFO. Required application forms are available at the [Forms Repository](#) on grants.gov. Note that instructions are available at the same link for the form itself.

For Organizations

Application for Federal Domestic Assistance-Short Organizational
(OMB 4040-0003, Expiration 2/28/2022)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-short-organization-family.html>

D.6 Submission Requirements

All proposals must be submitted electronically via email as described and by the day and time specified in [D.3 Application Package and Submission](#) and with the following requirements:

- Submit all application materials to AFC-grants@loc.gov
- The email must include the opportunity number [030ADV22R0061] in the subject line.
- The applicant should understand the file size limits for Library email are as follows:
 - The maximum size file allowed through the Library's email system is 20MB. In addition, certain files might need to undergo a conversion to be accepted by the Library's servers. This conversion increases the file size by 30% to 40%, therefore, please take this into consideration, when determining file sizes.
 - The Library's email system cannot accept files greater than 20MB. If needed, applicant may send application materials across multiple emails but must ensure they are all clearly identified, with the opportunity number [030ADV22R0061] and an identifier ("1 of X emails", "2 of X emails", etc.) in the subject line.
- If an applicant feels that the application materials will exceed the size limits stated above and is unable to send the documents on separate emails as stated above. The applicant may send an email to AFC-grants@loc.gov, **NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM on July 28, 2022, EASTERN TIME** to request help with sending the application materials. Please note that this is a day before the due date for applications stated in Section B. The Library will not provide assistance if the email is received after this date and time.

- Required file naming conventions are as follows:
 - [Notice #] - [Organization Short Name] - [Document Name]
 - E.g. 030ADV22R0061 - Smith Foundation - Project Narrative
- Applicant must not submit zipped or locked files.
- Applicant must not submit files via a third party website (such as OneDrive or Box.com).

E. APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARD

E.1 Criteria for Proposal Evaluation

The Library will assemble panels comprising a member of the American Folklife Center Board of Trustees, American Folklife Center staff, and invited panelists. This committee will assess each proposal on its feasibility, alignment with stated program goals, contributions to the cultural and geographic diversity of AFC holdings, and articulated value to the community of origin.

Specifically, key considerations in evaluating each application will be:

a) Advancement of program goals

- The extent to which the applicant's proposal shows a connection to the community proposed. Applicants must articulate the relationships to the community and its cultural practices.
- The extent to which applicant provided information on the types of cultural activity, experience, and/or traditions they will document. Applicants must offer examples of the kinds of community cultural practices (e.g. events, performances, material culture) that will be documented and the methods and technologies that will be used (e.g. audio-recorded interviews, photographs, descriptive notes).
- The extent to which the significance of the project is made clear, and its potential to help raise public awareness of the documented cultural activity and community.

b) Feasibility of successful project outcomes

- The extent to which the project design, implementation plan, and timeline aligns with the availability of the project personnel and access to cultural activity. Successful applications will provide evidence that the project can succeed and that the scale and scope is appropriate to the proposed budget and 12 month grant period.
- The extent to which the applicant has outlined and addressed any logistical factors or contingencies that could impede project success, such as: access to community and/or cultural activity, scheduling or other time dependencies, availability of team members or collaborators, or any travel-related risks.
- To what degree has the applicant shown they possess the capacity to successfully complete the project and meet stated aims?

c) Background and experience

- Applicant demonstrates they have experience, training, and/or skills supporting completion of the project. Formal training or credentials in ethnography/cultural documentation/fieldwork methods are not required, but familiarity with documentary tools and methods enhance proposal competitiveness.
- Do the identified collaborators, consultants, and/or service providers possess the skills necessary to complete the work?

- The extent to which the applicant's proposal demonstrates connection to a community, and that the project has value for the community.

d) Reasonableness of costs and likelihood that budget will support project execution

- Has applicant demonstrated an understanding of the financial aspects of the proposed project?
- Can applicant support and complete proposed activities in the time allocated, through the effective deployment and management of resources, including personnel, travel, equipment, and supplies?
- Are costs allowable under the cost principles found in [2 CFR 200 Subpart E](#)?
- If cost sharing, does the proposed cost share comply with relevant standards [[2 CFR 200.306](#); Standard Provision "Cost Sharing (Matching)" for U.S. entities.]

E.2 Notice of Federal Award

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. The Library reserves the right to award without requesting clarification or additional detail on the application.

Once all outstanding issues have been resolved, the Grant Officer will send a draft Grant Agreement via email to the successful applicant(s) for review, comments and or acceptance to be followed by full execution of the Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests.

Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by e-mail, within 60 days of the final review decision.

E.3 Pre-award Risk Assessments

The successful applicant is responsible for ensuring achievement of the objectives described in this NOFO. Therefore, the applicant must be a responsible entity. The Grants Officer (GO) will decide on whether to subject the applicant to a pre-award survey, and based on the results, will make a determination if the prospective recipient is a responsible entity, whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organization, experience, accounting, and operational controls, financial resources, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program and comply with the terms and conditions of the award.

Prior to making an award under this NOFO, the Library may perform a pre-award survey for organizations that are new to working with the Library or for organizations with outstanding audit findings. Accounting systems, audit issues and management capability questions may be reviewed as part of this process. Depending on its result of the risk assessment, the Library may determine to execute the award, not execute the award, or award with "specific conditions" ([2 CFR 200.208](#)). If notified by the Library that a pre-award survey is necessary, applicants must prepare in advance the required information and documents. A pre-award survey does not commit the Library to make an award to any organization or individual.

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

F.1 Approval Needed for Modifications to Proposed Work or Budget

Any project carried out under a grant must be consistent with the proposal that is approved for funding by the Library. Any significant change to a grant project's programmatic scope, key personnel, or planned budget requires the Library's explicit consent. The designated principal or authorizing official for the grantee shall submit, in writing (including email), all requests for a change to a grant project to the appropriate Library program officer for approval.

F.2 Project Reporting

Grantees must adhere to all reporting requirements listed below; further, US Non-governmental organizations need to be in compliance with 2 CFR 200. You should submit all reports by the due date for approval to the GO via email. In addition to the reports below, the GO may request additional information to contribute to the internal Library project reviews.

F.2.1 Project Development Plan

Grantees are required to submit a project development plan detailing major activity and milestones, including semi-annual status updates and regular review by Library staff, within thirty (30) days of award for the Library's approval.

F.2.2 Performance and Financial Reports

Interim Reports: Grantees are required to submit an **interim** performance report due on the six (6) month "anniversary" of the initial award. The interim report should include

- A description of activities undertaken to date
- Identification of any challenges and how they were, or are planned to be, resolved
- A review of project expenditures to date by category and notification of any anticipated changes to the project's spend plan

An interim report can take the form of a memorandum (approx. 1-2 pages) to the attention of "OTP Program Technical Contact" sent in PDF format. Financial data must be submitted on the SF-425 and on the budget summary report. Recipients may use the SF 270 in lieu of the SF 425 to report financial report expenditures. Financial expenditures should be reported no less than twice annually.

Final Reports: A final performance report must provide qualitative and quantitative information describing activities carried out and specific results achieved during the period, namely:

- A description of activities undertaken
- A comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award described in the project plan
- A description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate
- Key implementation challenges encountered and how they were, or are planned to be, resolved.
- A review of the project's budget (projected vs. actual) including specification of any significant variance using the Budget Narrative Charts, and
- Any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.
- Each report shall be accompanied by the Post-Award Federal Financial Report Form 425 available for [download](#) on grants.gov.

The final report shall take the form of a report (with cover and table of contents) sent in PDF format.

Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date.

F.2.3 Notification of Significant Developments

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have or could have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Library in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. The notification must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

The recipient should also notify the Library in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

G. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION

G.1 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards resulting from this NOFO will be administered in accordance with the Library of Congress' Regulation LCR 7-310 (Grants and Funded Cooperative Agreements), policies in 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards) described here and in the award, the Library General Terms and Conditions identified herein, and the Library Assurances and Certifications (Appendix C). Entities that receive Library funding must be familiar with these requirements and comply with applicable law.

G.2 General Terms and Conditions

Guidance. Additional OMB guidance may be incorporated by reference into grant awards and, unless otherwise specified, includes the provisions identified herein. All such guidance will be administered in accordance with standard deferral requirements for grant agreements and as interpreted by the Library, including: 2 CFR 200, subparts D, E, and F.

Record Retention. Grantees shall retain all records relating to a grant award for a period of three years following the completion of any grant-related projects.

Branding. Grantees shall not use the name "Library of Congress" or any abbreviation or subset of the name (such as "LC," "LoC," or "American Folklife Center") to explicitly or implicitly endorse a product or service or materials in any publication, including online. Subject to the Library's prior written approval over all aspects of the use and presentation of the Library's name and logo, Grantees may use the name Library of Congress in connection with publication, distribution, packaging, publicity and promotion of the grant project or products produced as a result of a grant agreement. In addition, Grantees will acknowledge the collaboration with the Library by including a credit line in or on projects created under the terms of a grant agreement with the Library that reads "The [title of program/project] has been made possible in part by a grant from the Library of Congress."

G.3 Certifications

As an applicant for Federal funds, you must certify that you are responsible for complying with certain nondiscrimination, debarment and suspension, drug-free workplace, and lobbying laws. These are set out in more detail, along with other requirements, in Appendix C. Assurances and Certifications.

By submitting the application, which includes the Assurances and Certifications, you certify that you are in compliance with these requirements and that you will maintain records and submit any reports that are necessary to ensure compliance.

Applicant's failure to comply with these statutory and regulatory requirements may result in the suspension or termination of your award and require you to return funds to the government.

G.4 Disclosures and Other Required Notifications

G.4.1 Criminal, Civil, and Administrative Proceedings Disclosure

Applicant must disclose to the Library all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award in writing and in a timely manner.

Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in [2 CFR 200, Appendix XII](#) – Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are also required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.339 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

G.4.2 Total Value of Federal Assistance is Greater than \$10,000,000

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, you must maintain the currency of Proceedings and Exclusions information you report to the System for Award Management (SAM). This information is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G.5 Intellectual Property Rights and Data Availability

Access and Use.

The Library's intention in this NOFO is that the collections created are of maximum benefit to the American people and contribute to public knowledge. To that end, documentation delivered under this grant will be deposited in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center, where it will be made available to researchers and other library patrons under existing copyright laws and regulations of the Library of Congress. In addition to digital collection materials deposited with the Library, copies may be retained by the interviewer and/or the local organization participating in the project.

The Library's preference is for projects that extend an open license for non-commercial public use to the collection materials, but we encourage applicants to describe in detail any specific limitations they might predict for portions of the collection. The Library intends to be attentive to culturally sensitive materials that may be part of documentation gathered during a project, and will work with grant awardees to determine the most appropriate approach regarding access. Interviewers and interviewees will be asked to sign releases granting the Library of Congress the perpetual and nonexclusive, transferable, worldwide rights to use, reproduce, transmit, display, perform, prepare derivatives works from, distribute, and authorize the distribution of the documentation. The permission includes use of the documentation for archival purposes (such as preservation and service to the public) and for non-commercial projects of the Library of Congress. This permission authorizes use of the documentation on the Library's Website, on third party Websites, and in/on all existing and future forms of media.

Applicant must describe any limitations on any intellectual property that will affect applicant's performance of the grant or affect the Library's (or the public's) subsequent use of any deliverable under the agreement (e.g. potential documentation of copyrighted cultural material). In particular, the applicant must describe the intellectual property in sufficient detail, clearly state any limitations, and describe how the Library can use the work with the limitations described or proposed by the applicant.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

H.1 Payments and Invoice Instructions

The grantee must prepare and submit invoices electronically to: www.ipp.gov. The recipient may submit payment requests using other than electronic means only when alternate procedures are authorized by the GO in writing. Assistance is available via the IPP Help Desk via email at: ippgroup@bos.frb.org or by commercial telephone at (866) 973-3131. Invoices shall contain the information required in the grant.

The total grant award amount will be paid in three installments. The schedule will be included in the grant agreement and successful applicants will use the SF-270 to request funding:

- Up to 60% within 30 days following project start
- Up to 30% within 180 days after project start
- Remaining 10% following receipt of the final report

H.2 Other Information

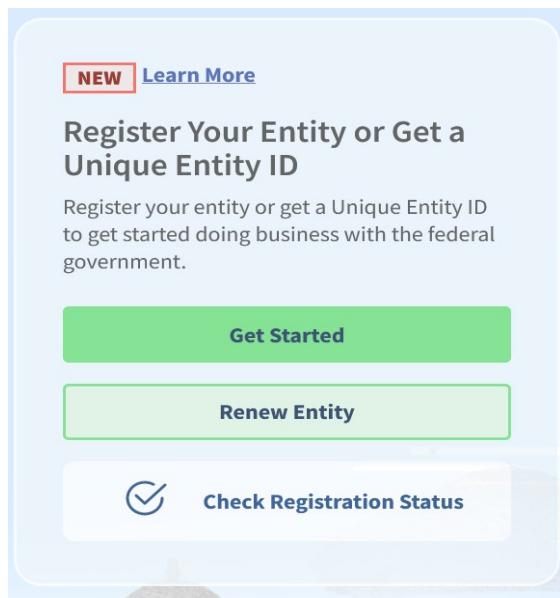
The Library reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The GO is the only individual who may legally commit the Library to the expenditure of public funds. Any award and subsequent incremental funding will be subject to the availability of funds and continued relevance to Library programming.

Appendix A: SAM.gov

Applicants must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number (see detailed description below) by registering in SAM.gov. The Library may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the Library may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The Library can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant. **There is no cost to register with SAM.gov.** There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free.** Award recipients must continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

How to register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Select “Get Started” on the section shown below on the landing page on the SAM.gov website to register. You will have to register as an Entity. An Entity on SAM.gov is defined as prime contractors, organizations, or individuals applying for assistance awards. SAM.gov will issue you a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number.



More information on the registration process can be found on the “Help” tab on SAM.gov.

Once registered in SAM.gov, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. To complete the process on SAM.gov, you will need the same kind of information used to obtain your Tax Identification Number (TIN) and other data to complete registration and reporting requirements.

Appendix B: Budget Definitions

Cost Types

Budget expenses are considered either **Direct** or **Indirect Costs** that will be funded solely through the grant or through a combination of the grant and other funding sources.

Indirect Costs. Indirect costs are expenses incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be easily allocated to a particular project, such as centralized administrative services, utilities, general insurance, local telephone service, or the salaries of the management and administrative personnel of the organization. See [2 CFR Part 200](#) for additional guidance.

- Indirect cost rates included in an applicant's proposed budget and narrative may not exceed 15%. The Library of Congress does not adhere to the indirect cost rates negotiated by other federal agencies pursuant to OMB regulations.

Direct Costs. A direct cost is any cost that can be specifically identified or assigned to the proposed project. Direct costs include, but are not limited to, salaries, travel, equipment, and supplies directly benefiting the project.

Cost Share. Cost share is that portion of the project costs that will be paid by other than Library grant funds including cash outlays, contribution of property and services, and in-kind contributions, such as staff or volunteer time that support project activities.

- As with grant funds, all cost share expenses must be incurred during the award period of performance unless otherwise specified and allowed by law.
 - o Federal funds from other federal awards may not be used for cost sharing.
 - o All federal, Library, and program requirements regarding the use of funds apply to both requested Library grant funds and to cost sharing. See [2 CFR §§ 200.1](#) and [200.306](#) for more information on cost share.

Definitions

Direct costs are identified separately on Budget Narrative worksheets with information detailing the items included, their purpose or relationship to the project, and other baseline information helping to quantify:

- **Salaries, Wages, and Benefits:** Include both temporary and permanent staff as well as volunteers engaged in project activities. Document the method of cost computation (e.g., as percentage of a person's time devoted to the project, number of days, number of hours) in your Budget Justification. Benefits can only be claimed as a direct cost for those positions included in the direct cost pool and only on the portion of salaries and wages identified for this project.
- **Travel:** A description of any travel costs, including transportation, lodging, and per diem. Applicants must use the lowest available commercial fares for coach or equivalent accommodations. Please refer to the Narrative section of this Notice of Funding Opportunity for information about specific travel requirements, if any.
- **Equipment:** Costs of equipment purchased specifically for the proposed project. Equipment is defined as tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a *useful life of more than one year* and a *per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000*. [2 CFR 200.313](#). For other information, please see [2 CFR Part 200](#).

- **Supplies:** Costs of supplies and materials purchased specifically for the proposed project. Supplies is defined as tangible personal property other than those described in 2 CFR 200.33 (Equipment). A computing device is a supply if the *acquisition cost is less than* the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes or **\$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life.** [2 CFR 200.314](#). For definitions and other information, please see [2 CFR Part 200](#).
- **Contractual:** Costs of each third party that will undertake specific project activities such as partners, consultants, collaborators, vendors, and/or service providers. The applicant is responsible for determining whether an agreement with a third party should be a subaward or a contract. That determination will depend upon the nature of applicant's relationship with the third party with respect to the activities to be carried out. (See [2 CFR § 200.331](#) (Subrecipient and contractor determinations)).
- **Other Costs:** Costs that cannot be assigned to other categories.

Appendix C: Assurances and Certifications

Nondiscrimination. Grants are subject to the provisions of: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-83, 1685-86 *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.*); the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statutes that may apply to the application and implementing regulations.

Lobbying Activities. 31 U.S.C. § 1352 generally prohibits recipients of federal contracts, grants, loans or cooperative agreements from using appropriated funds to influence the executive or legislative branches of the federal government in connection with a specific contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or any other award covered by § 1352. 18 U.S.C. § 1913 makes it a crime to use funds appropriated by Congress to influence members of Congress regarding congressional legislation or appropriations.

Drug-Free Workplace. The Library adopts the policies in the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 41 U.S.C. § 8103, which requires grantees to have an on-going drug-free awareness program; to publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace; to maintain evidence that this statement was given to each employee engaged in the performance of the grant; and to identify in the funding proposal or to keep on file in its office the place(s) where grant activities will be carried out.

Debarment and Suspension. Applicant institutions or their principals must not be presently debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible to participate in federal assistance programs. An applicant or grantee shall provide immediate written notice to the Library's Grants Officer if at any time it learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. Grantees shall not make or permit any sub-grant or contract to any party which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs. Grantees and sub-grantees must not make any award or permit any award (sub-grant or contract) at any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs.

Trafficking in Persons. Applicant institutions are prohibited from engaging in various forms of exploitation or trafficking in persons and certify, as a condition of an award, that the applicant will comply with the trafficking in persons requirements that are set out in 2 C.F.R. § 175.15, Award Term.