



WNY Arts Emergency Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who is eligible for this funding?

This funding is available for independent artists and nonprofit arts or cultural organizations working in any discipline within the five counties of Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara. Arts and cultural activities and programming must be the primary mission or purpose of all applicants. You can review our full eligibility requirements on our website (asiwny.org) or by contacting Holly Grant at holly@asiwny.org.

Are there any restrictions on how I use the funds if I receive them?

These funds are unrestricted general operating support. If you receive the funding, you can use the money to cover any expenses that your programmatic, sales, or event-based revenue would have been used to cover, such as rent, utilities, payroll, etc. We do ask how you plan to use the money in the application to help us assess your need for the funding.

How much money can I request?

Individuals can request up to \$1,000. Organizations can request up to \$5,000. Both must be able to demonstrate a significant impact and need based on lost revenue and unexpected expenditures directly related to the COVID-19 crisis.

What happens if I am denied funding?

All applicants who do not receive funding will be provided with feedback from the review panel and may re-apply for the fund.

I am an individual artist and I also represent an organization. Can I apply for funding for both?

Yes, but you must create two separate accounts in our grants portal and complete two separate applications. Both applications will be reviewed independently from one another, but must reflect the eligibility requirements of each category and cannot double-dip in an effort to secure more funding.

How soon would I receive these funds?

We expect you will receive the funds within a week of award notification, pending you providing us with the required documentation once your application is accepted and being mindful of any challenges that may arise due to our staff working remotely. Once you are notified of your funding status, our staff will discuss how we can get the payment to you. Please do not include any personal information (such as banking account or social security numbers) in your application.



What are the tax implications for individuals who apply for this fund?

Any grant over \$600 requires us to provide the recipient with a 1099 tax form at the end of the year. All individuals who receive a grant must complete a W-9 form along with their grant contract to receive the funding.

How much money is available for everyone?

Thanks to initial support from Fund for the Arts, the total amount of the fund is currently around \$240,000 and will be continuously changing as we work to solicit new donations and support. You can help us grow the fund by promoting our [GoFundMe campaign](#) to your networks. The more donations we receive, the more funding we have to distribute to the community. We will provide regular updates on the status of the fund, including how much has been distributed.

How many individuals and organizations will receive funding?

At this time, it is impossible to determine how many individuals and organizations will receive funding. We anticipate the need being very high. We will try our best to provide funding to as many individuals and organizations as possible, pending the amount of applications we receive, how much funding becomes available to distribute, and needs-based assessments of each request.