



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Curriculum Development: Western Civilization

Funding Opportunity Number: 20260625-ECD

Funding Opportunity Type: New

Federal Assistance Listing Number: 45.038

Application Deadline: June 25, 2026

Ensure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations and passwords are current.
It may take several weeks to register with SAM.gov and Grants.gov.
NEH will not grant deadline extensions for lack of registration.

Division of Lifelong Learning
Email: learning@neh.gov

OMB control number 3136-0134, expiration date October 31, 2027

Executive Summary

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Lifelong Learning is accepting applications for the Curriculum Development: Western Civilization program. The purpose of this program is to support formal education by strengthening the teaching and study of the humanities at institutions of higher education. For 2026, projects must be focused on Western civilization, American history, American government and civics, and/or the Great Books tradition.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides application information unique to Curriculum Development: Western Civilization, including program-specific requirements, allowable activities, review criteria, and formatting instructions. Refer to [NEH's General Application Guide for Awards to Organizations](#) for standard instructions that apply to all NEH funding programs for organizations. Together, this NOFO and the general guidelines provide all the information you need to complete and submit your application to NEH.

Funding Opportunity Title	Curriculum Development: Western Civilization
Funding Opportunity Number	20260625-ECD
Federal Assistance Listing Number	45.038
Application Deadline	June 25, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time
Anticipated Award Announcement	December 2026
Anticipated Funding	Approximately \$7,000,000
Estimated Number and Type of Awards	Approximately 10 grants
Award Amounts	Up to \$750,000.
Cost Sharing/Match Required	No
Period of Performance	Up to 3 years. Projects must start between March 1, 2027, and June 1, 2027.
Eligible Applicants	Accredited institutions of higher education (public or nonprofit) See C. Eligibility Information for additional information.
Program Resource Page	https://www.neh.gov/program/curriculum-development-western-civilization
Published	April 16, 2026

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A. Program Description

1. Purpose

Curriculum Development: Western Civilization grants strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities at institutions of higher education by developing or enhancing programs, resources, or courses that explore, interpret, and preserve the diversity of human cultures, ideas, and practices, past and present.

You may focus on undergraduate education, graduate study, or a combination of the two. Your project may include fields outside traditional humanities disciplines – such as writing and composition, foreign languages, or workforce development – but must involve humanities faculty and must be grounded in humanities scholarship.

Project topics

For 2026, Curriculum Development: Western Civilization projects must be focused on the teaching and study of Western civilization, American history, American government and civics, and/or the Great Books tradition. Projects may take a variety of approaches to the topic(s), drawing on fields such as philosophy, history, languages and literature, political science, archaeology, and classics.

Previous NEH grant recipients in similar programs have used funds to:

- create or enhance humanities courses, including introductory or general education courses; capstone courses; and humanities courses connected to non-humanities programs
- partner with a local museum, library, or other cultural institution to develop teaching materials
- develop and revise majors, minors, and certificate programs
- offer professional development opportunities such as faculty workshops or speaker series focused on humanities topics or approaches to teaching the humanities
- promote innovative humanities teaching by providing stipends to individual faculty members

Program outputs and outcomes

The outputs of a successful Curriculum Development: Western Civilization award may include, but are not limited to:

- new or revised courses, programs, or curriculums
- materials to support humanities teaching, such as websites, databases, or curated resources
- faculty development programs
- partnerships with cultural institutions, school districts, institutions of higher education, and/or community organizations

The outcomes of a successful Curriculum Development: Western Civilization award will include stronger humanities programs and/or enhanced capacity to teach the humanities at the recipient institution.

You must describe your outputs and how they would support the project outcomes in the application [Attachment 2: Work plan](#). If you receive an award, NEH will assess your performance by comparing the outputs proposed in the application against those reported in your performance reports. See [H. Annual and Final Reporting](#).

2. Funding Restrictions

You may not use funds made under this notice for the following purposes:

Restricted activities:

- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- promotion of gender ideology
- promotion of discriminatory equity ideology
- support for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) or diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives or activities
- environmental justice initiatives or activities
- advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- support of specific public policies or legislation
- lobbying

Programmatic exclusions:

- projects centered on pedagogical theory and strategies
- research on educational methods, tests, or measurements
- the rental of recreational facilities and costs related to social events such as banquets, receptions, and entertainment
- tuition fees for participants
- tuition remission
- individual research
- work undertaken in pursuit of an academic degree
- projects that fall outside of the humanities
- the creation or performance of art
- creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction
- policy studies
- social science research that does not address humanistic questions and/or utilize humanistic methods

Unallowable costs:

- the cost of travel associated with scholarly research unrelated to the project
- the cost of travel to attend regularly occurring professional meetings unless the purpose of attending is to disseminate project-related findings
- costs for activities performed by federal entities or personnel
- fiscal agent and fiscal sponsor fees
- fiscal agent activities alone without substantive involvement (e.g. proposal submissions, reporting, financial oversight, maintaining IRS status)

See [2 CFR 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles](#) for other unallowable costs.

If your application includes unallowable costs or activities, NEH will deem it to be nonresponsive and reject it.

3. Background

NEH offers this funding opportunity under the authority of [20 U.S.C. § 956](#). Awards are subject to [2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#), and the [General Terms and Conditions for Awards to Organizations](#).

Under [Section 3\(a\) of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965](#), as amended, “The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.”

Use the [Funded Projects Query Form](#) to find examples of NEH-supported projects.

[Learn more about NEH.](#)

B. Federal Award Information

1. Type of Application and Award

NEH seeks new applications in response to this notice. NEH will provide funding in the form of grants.

2. Summary of Funding

Award amounts

You may request up to \$750,000, inclusive of both direct and indirect costs. Refer to [NEH's General Application Guide for Awards to Organizations](#) for information about indirect costs.

NEH anticipates awarding approximately \$7,000,000 in total funding to an estimated 10 recipients.

NEH will not determine the funding available each fiscal year until Congress enacts the agency's final budget. Accordingly, NEH issues this NOFO subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and it does not obligate NEH to make any awards.

Period of performance

The period of performance is the time during which you may incur expenses to carry out the work under the award. It must start on the first day of the month and end on the last day of the month.

You may request a period of performance of between one and three years with a start date between March 1, 2027, and June 1, 2027.

Cost sharing

NEH supports projects with outright funds, federal matching funds, or a combination of the two. [Learn about the types of funds NEH offers.](#) Cost sharing refers to project costs that are covered with non-NEH funds. Additional information on cost sharing is available in [NEH's General Application Guide for Awards to Organizations.](#)

NEH will award successful applicants outright funds, which do not require cost sharing.

Peer reviewers will not consider any voluntary cost share in their evaluation of applications.

You must maintain auditable records documenting the source and use of cost share, consistent with [2 CFR § 200.306.](#)

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to apply, your organization must be a U.S.-accredited public or 501(c)(3) private institution of higher education.

Individuals and other organizations, including foreign and for-profit entities, are ineligible.

NEH does not provide financial assistance to foreign institutions or organizations.

NEH does not issue awards to other federal entities. If your project is so closely intertwined with a federal entity that the project takes on characteristics of the federal entity's own authorized activities, it is ineligible.

The recipient may not function solely as a fiscal agent but should make substantive contributions to the success of the project. Fiscal sponsors applying on behalf of an ineligible organization are not eligible to apply.

2. Other Eligibility Information

You may submit multiple applications for separate and distinct projects under this notice. An individual may not serve as project director for multiple proposed projects under this notice.

You may revise and resubmit an application not selected for funding. Resubmissions must meet the application requirements and [review criteria](#) of the current competition.

If you submit multiple applications, NEH will accept only your last validated submission prior to the deadline under the applicable Grants.gov funding opportunity.

D. Application Contents

You must apply using Grants.gov Workspace or a Grants.gov system-to-system solution. You can find this funding opportunity in Grants.gov under number 20260625-ECD. There is also a link on the [program resource page.](#)

See the [Application Component Table](#) below to learn what a complete application entails, and the sections following it for information about the content of those components.

See [NEH's General Application Guide for Awards to Organizations](#) for application component designations, page limits, formatting requirements, and submission rules, as well as instructions for the Grants.gov forms in your application package (SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance, Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Programs, Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form, Attachments form, lobbying forms, and the Research and Related Budget form and accompanying budget justification).

NEH will not review applications missing any required documents or relevant conditionally required documents.

If you include application elements other than those listed in the table, NEH will reject your application.

If your application exceeds mandatory page limits or deviates from formatting instructions, NEH will reject it.

1. Application Component Table

Application Component	File Name	Designation	Page Limit
Attachments			
1: Narrative	narrative.pdf	Required	10 (mandatory)
2: Work plan	workplan.pdf	Required	2 (suggested)
3: Résumés for key personnel	resumes.pdf	Required	2 pages per person (suggested)
4: Reading list	readings.pdf	Required	2 (suggested)
5: Letters of commitment and support	letters.pdf	Required	
6: Other supporting documentation	documentation.pdf	Optional	10 (mandatory)
7: Subrecipient budget(s)	subrecipient.pdf	Conditionally required	
8: Federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement	agreement.pdf	Conditionally required	
9: Explanation of delinquent federal debt	delinquentdebt.pdf	Conditionally required	

Application Component		Designation	
Grants.gov Forms			
SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance – Short Organizational		Required	
Supplementary Cover Sheet for NEH Grant Programs		Required	
Project/Performance Site(s) Location Form		Required	
Research and Related Budget and Budget Justification		Required	
Attachments Form		Required	
Certification Regarding Lobbying		Conditionally required	
Standard Form-LLL “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities”		Conditionally required	

2. Application Elements

Attachment 1: Narrative (required)

Compose a comprehensive description of your proposed project. Your narrative should be succinct, well organized, and free of technical terms and jargon so that peer reviewers can understand the proposed project. Per the [Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence for NEH Grant Proposals](#), you must acknowledge (by use of footnotes or other marginal notations) when you have inserted AI-generated text into your proposal.

You must limit the narrative to 10 single-spaced pages. Do not include an executive summary, cover page, or table of contents. You may include images, charts, diagrams, footnotes, or endnotes if they fit within the page limit. **Name the file narrative.pdf.**

Organize your narrative using the following headings. Each section aligns with one or more [review criteria](#) NEH will use to evaluate your proposal.

Intellectual Rationale (aligns with [review criterion 1](#))

Identify the core humanities topic or set of humanities themes your project will address and describe your approach to strengthening the teaching and study of Western civilization, American history, American government and civics, and/or the Great Books tradition. Describe the intellectual and scholarly content of these themes, situating them in their broader scholarly and educational context. Describe your intended audience and explain how your project will enrich humanities teaching and learning.

Design and Activities (aligns with [review criteria 1, 2, and 3](#))

Describe the structure of your project and how your project activities will explore and develop the humanities themes and topics you outlined in the narrative’s Intellectual Rationale. Describe how your project will progress during the period of performance, identifying specific steps and providing examples as appropriate. List the main texts and resources that your project will use and explain why you chose them. Describe opportunities to integrate the material into teaching

and learning. If you will create curricular resources, explain how instructors will use them in existing or new courses.

Project Team (aligns with [review criteria 1, 2, and 3](#))

Identify the project director(s), members of the project team, and any external contributors, such as visiting scholars and consultants. Define their roles and briefly state their specific qualifications for the project.

Institutional Support (aligns with [review criteria 2 and 3](#))

Describe the institutional support for the project and your institution's capacity to carry out the project. Identify relevant resources at your institution and/or partner organizations.

Briefly explain the context of the humanities at your institution. Summarize its programs, curriculum, students, faculty, and resources (e.g., library, archival, or museum holdings) available for humanities study, and explain how these resources support the project.

If you plan to collaborate with other institutions or community partners, describe their roles and contributions. If applicable, you may refer to one or more letters of commitment included in [Attachment 5: Letters of commitment and support](#).

Impact and Dissemination (aligns with [review criteria 2 and 3](#))

Describe your project's anticipated impact on humanities teaching and learning at your institution. Describe how you will disseminate project outcomes to a wider audience. Explain how you will conduct formative and summative assessments to evaluate the project's success at meeting goals. NEH does not require external evaluation in this program.

Attachment 2: Work plan (required)

Your work plan should reflect the major activities you describe in your [narrative](#), the project dates on your SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance - Short Organizational, and your Research and Related Budget.

Describe the activities that will take place during the period of performance to achieve each of the proposed objectives. Use a timeline that includes each activity and identifies responsible staff. Explain how outcomes from one activity will carry over into the next. For multi-institutional collaborative projects, discuss the distribution of responsibilities across each institution. As appropriate, identify meaningful support and collaboration with key stakeholders in planning, designing, and implementing activities.

The work plan has a suggested length of two single-spaced pages. **Name the file `workplan.pdf`.**

Attachment 3: Résumés for key personnel (required)

Include two-page résumés (suggested length) for key personnel. **Name the file `resumes.pdf`.**

Attachment 4: Reading list (required)

Include a list of relevant readings and resources for the project, which could include books, articles, primary sources, films, works of art, etc. This list should convey the humanities content that informs your curriculum. You may also list texts that might be included on syllabi, serve as the basis for faculty development, or be featured in the project in other ways.

The reading list has a suggested length of two single-spaced pages. **Name the file readings.pdf.**

Attachment 5: Letters of commitment and support (required)

Provide any documents that describe working relationships between your organization and other individuals, entities, and programs cited in the application. Letters of commitment must be signed and dated.

Elected government officials, NEH staff, and current members of the [National Council on the Humanities](#) may not serve as letter writers. **Name the file letters.pdf.**

Attachment 6: Other supporting documentation (optional)

You may provide supporting material directly relevant to your project, such as a sample syllabus, the program of study for a faculty development workshop, or a list of courses to be developed.

This attachment must not exceed 10 pages. **Name the file documentation.pdf.**

Attachment 7: Subrecipient budget(s) (conditionally required)

If your project includes subawards, you must provide a separate Research and Related Budget form and budget justification for each subrecipient. **Name the file subrecipient.pdf.**

Attachment 8: Federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (conditionally required)

If your organization is claiming indirect costs and has a current federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, provide a copy of the agreement. If applicable, provide the indirect cost rate agreements for subrecipients claiming indirect costs. If you and your subrecipients are requesting the de minimis rate of 15%, you do not need to submit this attachment. **Name the file agreement.pdf.**

Attachment 9: Explanation of delinquent federal debt (conditionally required)

If your organization is delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt, explain why. Provide evidence that you have entered into a repayment agreement with the Internal Revenue Service, if applicable, and that you are current on all payments due. Examples of relevant debt include delinquent payroll or other taxes, audit disallowances, and benefit overpayments. See [OMB Circular A-129](#). **Name the file delinquentdebt.pdf.**

3. Budget Instructions Specific to this Program

See [NEH's General Application Guide for Awards to Organizations](#) for instructions on completing your budget and budget justification.

Personnel

Grant funds rarely pay for more than 50% of an existing or new faculty member's salary.

Students

As a matter of programmatic policy, tuition remission is not allowed in this program.

Travel

You may not use NEH funds to attend regularly occurring professional meetings unless the purpose of attending is to disseminate project-related findings.

Publication Costs

Enter the requested funds for publication costs, including the costs of documenting, preparing, publishing, or otherwise making available to others the findings and products of the work conducted under the award. Include supporting information in your budget justification.

E. Application Review Information

1. Review Criteria

Peer reviewers will use the following criteria to review applications under this notice:

1. Intellectual quality and significance (aligns with narrative sections [Intellectual Rationale](#), [Design and Activities](#), and [Project Team](#))

The extent to which the proposal:

- supports the teaching and study of Western civilization, American history, American government and civics, and/or the Great Books tradition
- centers on a topic significant to humanities teaching and learning, engages important texts and other resources, and draws on sound scholarship
- clearly and persuasively explains the project's intellectual content and significance
- provides a variety of approaches and views, and describes a humanities-based approach to the topic that is intellectually compelling
- incorporates a project team with suitable subject matter and pedagogical expertise

2. Program design and feasibility (aligns with narrative sections [Design and Activities](#), [Project Team](#), [Institutional Support](#), and [Impact and Dissemination](#))

The extent to which the proposal:

- demonstrates a realistic and well-planned schedule of project activities, described in adequate detail
- includes personnel qualified to carry out their intellectual and organizational responsibilities
- demonstrates commitment and capacity of project collaborators and the institution to successfully carry out the project
- incorporates an evaluation plan that effectively measures progress toward project goals

3. Impact (aligns with narrative sections [Design and Activities](#), [Project Team](#), [Institutional Support](#), and [Impact and Dissemination](#))

The extent to which the proposal:

- demonstrates that the project will improve understanding and teaching of the proposed topic
- provides for meaningful dissemination to strengthen the project's impact

2. Review Process

NEH staff review all applications for eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness. The agency then conducts a peer review process for all applications that pass this initial screening.

Peer reviewers are experts in their fields with knowledge and expertise relevant to the activities that the program supports. NEH instructs peer reviewers to evaluate applications according to the [review criteria](#) in this notice. Peer reviewers must comply with federal ethics rules governing conflicts of interest.

NEH program officers supplement the peer reviewers' comments to address matters of fact or significant points that the peer reviewers have overlooked. They then make funding recommendations to the [National Council on the Humanities](#) and to the NEH Chairman. The National Council meets at least twice each year to review applications and advise the NEH Chairman. By law, the Chairman has the sole authority to make final funding decisions. Following NEH's public announcement of funded projects, you may request copies of the peer reviewers' evaluations of your proposal by contacting learning@neh.gov.

[Learn more about the NEH review process.](#)

[Apply to be a peer reviewer for NEH.](#)

3. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to intergovernmental review under [Executive Order 12372](#).

F. Submission Information

1. Application Package

You must apply using Grants.gov Workspace or a Grants.gov system-to-system solution. You can find this funding opportunity in Grants.gov under number 20260625-ECD. There is also a link on the [program resource page](#).

2. Submission Instructions

The deadline for applications under this notice is June 25, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

When NEH receives your application from Grants.gov, the agency will assign it a tracking number beginning with ECD-.

Under this notice NEH will consider only applications that are complete, comply with length and formatting requirements, and have been validated by Grants.gov under the correct funding opportunity prior to the deadline. See the [late submission policy](#) for the limited situations when NEH might accept an application submitted after the deadline.

G. Award Notices

1. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

NEH will notify you of funding decisions by email in December 2026. Notification of funding does not authorize you to begin performance or incur costs.

2. Federal Award Documents

If NEH selects your application for an award, the NEH Office of Grant Management will send award documents to the institutional grant administrator and project director through eGMS Reach starting in January 2027.

H. Annual and Final Reporting

If you receive an award, you must complete these required reports in NEH's online grant management system, eGMS Reach.

1. Annual Federal Financial Report(s)
2. Annual Performance Progress Report(s)
3. Final Financial and Performance Reports
4. Tangible Personal Property Report (if you purchase equipment)

Learn more about [performance reporting requirements](#) and [financial reporting requirements](#).

I. Agency Information

If you have questions about the program, contact:

Division of Lifelong Learning
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
learning@neh.gov

If you have questions about administrative requirements or allowable costs, contact:

Office of Grant Management
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8494
grantmanagement@neh.gov

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can contact NEH using telecommunications relay at 7-1-1.

Related funding opportunities

You may find related funding opportunities with your state or jurisdictional humanities council. As mandated by Congress, NEH's program budget supports these councils, which play a critical

role in carrying out NEH's mission and goals at a local, grassroots level. Contact information for each council can be found here: <https://www.neh.gov/about/state-humanities-councils>.