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DLI-DEL (Individual) Fellowships Webinar August 5, 2021

The Dynamic Language Infrastructure –
Documenting Endangered Languages
(DLI-DEL) Fellowships
delfel@neh.gov

Hello and good afternoon to all of you, and thank you for taking the time off your busy schedules to attend the NEH webinar for DLI-DEL Fellowships today.



DLI-DEL (Individual) Fellowships

Suha Kudsieh
Program Officer
Division of Research

Christopher Sciotto
Grants Administrator
Office of Grant Management

DEL Senior Research Grants through NSF

Jacquelyn Clements
Senior Program Officer
Division of Preservation and Access

My name is Suha Kudsieh, and I'm a Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities, or NEH. I am the team lead for this DLI-DEL Fellowships, and I look forward to telling you about NEH's DLI-DEL Fellowships today.

I'd like to introduce two of my colleagues who have joined me today. First is my colleague is Chris Sciotto, Grant Administrator in the Office of Grant Management. My second colleague is Jacquelyn Clements, Senior Program Office in the Division of Preservation and Access and the team lead for DLI Senior Research Grants.

I will be speaking for about 35-40 minutes. I will spend the rest of our time answering your questions. Please send your questions by typing them into the chat or Q&A area. I will go through them, in order, at the end of my talk. I will read them out loud and try to answer them.



Program Goals



- The fellowships are offered as part of a joint, multi-year funding program of NEH and the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- The goal is to develop and advance scientific and scholarly knowledge concerning endangered human languages.

The “Dynamic Language Infrastructure” grants (DLI for short) are run in partnership between NEH and NSF, the National Science Foundation.

This longstanding partnership that started in 2005, 16 years ago, and it grew out of the two agencies’ shared concern for the looming extinction of thousands of languages across the globe, and, in particular, threatened indigenous languages in the United States.



Introduction: The DLI-DEL Program



- Within NEH, a partnership with the Division of Preservation and Access (P&A)
 - P&A funds institutional DEL projects (Senior Research Grants)
 - The Research division funds fellowships for individuals
- First awards were made in FY 2006
- Since FY 2019, awards have been \$5,000/month for 6-12 months, and can be split into two periods

At the NEH, two divisions manage DLI applications: The Division of Research oversees the DLI Fellowships grants, and that's the program I am going to discuss with you today.

The second division is Preservation and Access, which manages the DLI Senior grants, and I will speak briefly about those grants at the end of the talk.

NEH and NSF meet frequently to discuss ways to improve the DLI program. For example, since the 2019, the funding has been in the amount of \$5,000/month for 6-12 months, and it can be split into two periods.



Basic Program Statistics for Fellowships

- 185 applications
- 98 awards
- 73 language communities
- 248 products

Since fiscal year 2006 and until 2020, NEH has funded 98 fellowships in the DLI program. As before, these fellowships are offered for a period of 6 to 12 months at a monthly stipend rate of \$5,000.



[Map created with mapcustomizer.com]

This map shows you where the language communities of previous fellowship awards are located. This covers all awards between 2006 to 2021. You can see there are certain clusters in North America, Central America and Amazonia, as well as in the South Pacific, especially Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. But overall, the projects are spread across the globe.

A red marker indicates 4 awards were made for scholars studying a language community. Awards could be for a single scholar or multiple scholars. Orange indicate 3 awards, yellow indicates 2 awards, and grey indicates 1 award.

Regarding the distribution of projects and language communities in North America, you'll notice that many projects are located in the Northwest, including Alaska, and languages that are spoken or have been spoken in the past by indigenous communities in both the United States and Canada. Clusters on this map can be seen in California and the Southwest.

Fellowships Program Overview

- Program goals
- Program details
- Required and conditional application materials
- Review criteria
- Additional resources and help
 - Optional: Submitting drafts by July 14, 2021
 - Additional grant opportunities
- Your questions: Feel free to submit your questions at any time during the presentation

In today's talk, I will cover the goals of the fellowship program, the required and conditional application materials, the review criteria, and where you can find additional resources, funding and help with your applications.

Key Points about the Fellowships

- Individual program.
- Projects must document endangered languages.
- Grants support archival documentation, article, book, book section, dictionary, digital material and publication, grammar book, other scholarly resource, and translation.
- Period of performance: 6 months-12 months.
- Funding: \$5,000 per month.
- Deadline to apply: September 15, 2021.
- See the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) at [neh.gov](https://www.neh.gov).

DLI fellowships are individual grants; they are not offered to institutions. The fellowships are made to individual scholars who may or may not be affiliated with an academic institutes. The fellowships are open to adjuncts, and non affiliated scholars.

The grants support projects that will lead to archival documentation, and/or publishing scholarly articles, books, book chapters, dictionaries, digital material, grammar books, other scholarly resources, and translations.

The shortest period of performance is 6 months, and the maximum period of funding is 12 months. The amount of funding is \$5,000 per month. This is why preparing a budget is not required or needed.

The deadline to apply is September 15 for awards that begin in May 2022.

The best source of information on the fellowships is the Notice of Funding Opportunity PDF document: <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/DLI-DEL%20Fellowships%20FY2021%20NOFO%2020210915-FN%20%281%29.pdf>.

What is an endangered language?

Check published endangerment scales or language vitality scales; use the parameters there to justify the urgency of proposed projects:

1. <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/blog.nus.edu.sg/dist/d/3920/files/2015/02/Lee-and-Van-Way-2016-21kp5hr.pdf>
2. http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Language_vitality_and_endangerment_EN.pdf

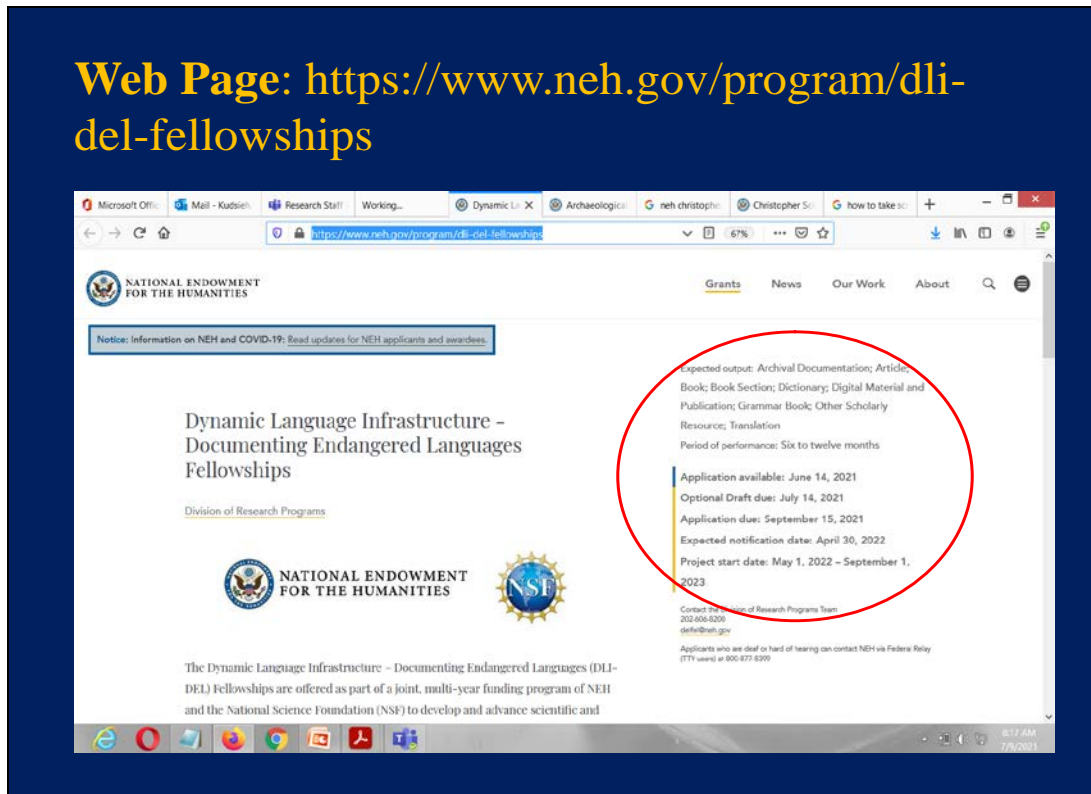
So, how can we determine whether or not a language is endangered? You can find the best answers by referring to the document published by John Van Way in *Language in Society* in 2016. [<https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/blog.nus.edu.sg/dist/d/3920/files/2015/02/Lee-and-Van-Way-2016-21kp5hr.pdf>]

John Van Way enumerates a number of factors that help you assess the vitality of a language and its endangerment, such as Intergenerational language transmission, the Absolute number of speakers, the Proportion of speakers within the total population, Trends in existing language domains, Response to new domains and media, available materials for language education and literacy, Governmental and institutional language attitudes and policies, including official status and use, the Community members' attitudes toward their own language, and Amount and quality of documentation.

The second document is prepared by the UNESCO:

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Language_vitality_and_endangerment_EN.pdf.

Web Page: <https://www.neh.gov/program/dli-del-fellowships>



Let's take a look at the NEH's web page for this program (<https://www.neh.gov/program/dli-del-fellowships>). On the right hand of the page, you'll find the key program details.

The NEH handles the intake and review process for DLI-DEL Fellowships. This means you must apply through the grants.gov portal and not FastLane or Research.gov as you might have done for other NSF applications and grants.

The application elements are different, but most of the content is the same. Likewise, the review criteria are formulated somewhat differently, but overall, they are very similar.

I will elaborate on these points in the next slides.

Key Program Details

- Grants are made to individuals, not institutions.
- Duration: 6-12 months (full time).
- Grant amount: \$5,000 per month.
- Application deadline: September 15, 2021.
- Notification of decision: April 30, 2022.
- Earliest possible start date: May 1, 2022.
- Latest possible start date: September 1, 2023.

The basic details are:

Grants are made to individuals, not institutions.

The award amount is \$5000 per month, for a minimum period of six and a maximum period of 12 months. I would like to add here that full-time and continuous tenure is preferred during your fellowship. But you may break your award into two parts, one of which must be at least three months in duration. So, if you have a six month fellowship, for example, and you have to teach a semester in between, you could take three months initially, then break for your semester or academic year, and then take your second three months of your fellowship afterward.

However, during the fellowship period, when you are actually on your fellowship, you must devote 100% of your time to your project, and not take on other teaching or other professional obligations.

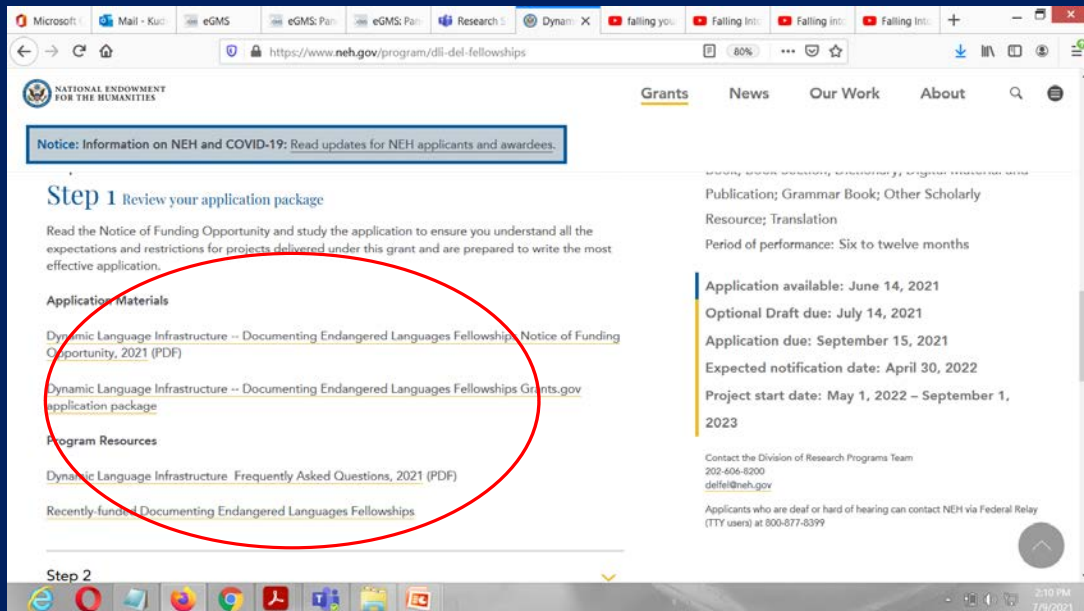
Application deadline: September 15, 2021.

Notification of decision: April 30, 2022.

Earliest possible start date: May 1, 2022.

Latest possible start date: September 1, 2023.

Web page, Cont: NOFO and Resources



On the left side of the webpage, the most important part here is **Step 1**, where you can download the DLI-DEL Notice of Funding Opportunity for fellowships. This Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, is what NSF would call its solicitation, that is to say, the detailed information and instructions about how to apply for this fellowship. Download the PDF document, read it carefully, and keep it at hand as you assemble your application.

If you scroll down the page, you'll see "Program Resources". They include a FAQ page (Frequently Asked Questions page) and a list of all funded DLI projects.

Eligibility



- Who can apply for the grant?
- American citizens and residents
 - Affiliation: in the USA , or elsewhere
 - Residency: anywhere in the world
 - Education and degrees
- Non Americans who reside in the USA
 - Must be resident in the USA for three consecutive years before they apply

USA citizens, who are not enrolled in degree programs, can apply for DLI Fellowships, regardless of where they live or work.

Non-USA citizens and residents can also apply for the fellowships, but they must have lived and resided in the USA for three consecutive years before the application deadline.

Regarding degree requirements, a PhD degree is not required to apply. However, you must have completed your professional training before you apply, and it can be at any level.

If the PhD is not in linguistics or a related discipline, you will have to convince the peer reviewers in your application that you are qualified to undertake the project you propose.

Organizations are not eligible to apply on behalf of scholars. As I mentioned earlier, you do not need to be a faculty member, or even be affiliated with a University or organization.

Required & Conditional Application Material (Pages 5-16 of the NOFO)

Required Material:

- Narrative: 3 pages
- Work Plan: 1 page
- Bibliography: 1 page
- Resume: 2 pages
- Sample: up to 2 pages



The application is made up of five required attachments: The Narrative is the most important. This is where you describe your project and make the case for funding it. The narrative must be succinct and well organized. Keep in mind that it's just three pages long.

For the Work Plan, you should describe any preparation of your project, then include a detailed plan in three-months' increments, each detailing what you will do and where. Remember that you must devote 100% of your time to the project during the fellowship. If the entire project cannot be completed in a year, that's OK, but please provide a plan and timeline for completion beyond the Fellowship.

The Bibliography, since it is limited to a single page, include just the most pertinent works related to your project. Remember that if you've published on this topic yourself before, you can list that in your CV, and you don't need to mention it in the bibliography.

The Résumé is a two-page CV that lists current and past positions; your degrees with dates and titles of dissertations; any awards, honors, and grants, especially those that are relevant to your project; as well as publications with full citations. Make sure you list publications and activities that are relevant to your proposed work.

Writing samples are 1 or 2 pages long. Make sure you provide examples that illustrate the methods and results of your linguistic research. For instance, a sample dictionary or grammar entry, interlinear glossing, questionnaires, task prototype protocols, records, and any other

materials that help to explain your project. You're limited to two pages for that, so the sample must be tight and concise.

Please note that a budget is not required because your award amount is fixed at \$5,000 per month.

Required & Conditional Application Material (Pages 5-16 of the NOFO)

Required Material:

- Narrative: 3 pages
- Work Plan: 1 page
- Bibliography: 1 page
- Resume: 2 pages
- Sample: up to 2 pages

Conditional Material

- One reference letter
- Speaker community support letter
- Data Management Plan
- Archive support
- Degree conferral
- Explanation of delinquent federal debt

On the right column, you'll see a list of supplementary (or conditional) attachments. This is the first year we're requesting a reference letter from a scholar who is familiar with the language(s) of your project and should provide an assessment of the writing sample that you are submitting with your application. Notify this reference that they are expected to address the quality of the writing sample in their letter.

While a reference letter is not a required document, it may help the review panels assess the significance of your project, the level of endangerment, and why you are the best scholar to carry out the proposed research.

The Letter from the Speaker Community is particularly important if you are planning to do fieldwork and documentation. You should demonstrate that the appropriate permissions have been sought and granted from the speaker community.

The Data Management Plan is just like the document you submit for NSF applications. If your project includes language documentation, describe how your data will be archived, sustained, and supported. Include information on access and restrictions of access.

Also, include a Letter of Support from the archive where your materials will be deposited.

If you have fulfilled all the requirements for your degree, but it has not yet been conferred, you'll need to include a letter from your dean or department chair that confirms your status.

Finally, if you are delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt, you must provide explanatory information. Most commonly, these debts include federal student loans, delinquent taxes, delinquent child support payments, or delinquent payroll taxes for employees.

Application Narrative

- Significance, impact and endangerment
 - Discuss the level of endangerment of the language
- Organization, concepts, and methods
- Competency, skills, and access
- Final product and dissemination



The application narrative is really the core piece of your application. Preparing an excellent narrative is worth spending some time on because this is where you describe your project and make your case for funding it.

Remember that it should be free of technical terms and jargon, so that peer reviewers, especially the non-specialists, who will read your application in the later stages of the review process, can understand what your project is about and why it's important.

The application guidelines instruct you to use certain subheadings in the narrative.

The first one is called Significance, Impact and Endangerment. This is where you answer the question about the intellectual merit of your proposed project. Explain your project's goals and expected impact. Discuss the level of endangerment of the language you will be investigating, and the urgency of documentation and analysis.

The next subheading is Organization, Concepts, and Methods. This is where you explain the research design of your project. You can discuss the basic ideas and questions to be examined, and how your research will address them. You should explain the methods for documentation and discuss the theoretical framework in relation to the research questions. Explain specific concepts and terminology here, if that's necessary.

The next subheading is Competency, Skills, and Access: Here you will talk about your academic background and preparation. You don't need to repeat what's in your attached CV, but explain what work that has led up to the project you are applying for. For example, it could be an expansion or revision of work you did for your PhD.

And finally, Final Product and Dissemination: What are the results of your work? It could be publications of different sorts, archival documentation material that you're going to archive, a combination of these things. You might also, for the dissemination part, explain how publications are going to be distributed, or whether you will be talking about your work at one or more conferences.

Review Criteria (p. 17 of the NOFO)

1. Significance
2. Methods and preparation
3. Skills
4. Outcomes and dissemination
5. Workplan



On this slide, you'll see the five criteria that peer reviewers will be asked to use for their evaluations of your application. It makes sense to craft your application so that it covers each of these aspects fully and convincingly. The application guidelines in the NOFO tell you which parts of the proposal address which criterion of the five that are listed here.

Please note that the criteria can be relevant to more than one section of the application, and, taken together, the parts of the proposal (the Narrative, Bibliography, Work Plan, CV, and any of the appendices) should form a coherent whole.

The first and most important criterion is **significance**, that is to say, the intellectual merit and broader impact of the proposed project, its value to linguistics and humanities scholarship, and the level of endangerment of the language to be studied. These aspects must be addressed in the first part of your Application Narrative, the part on significance.

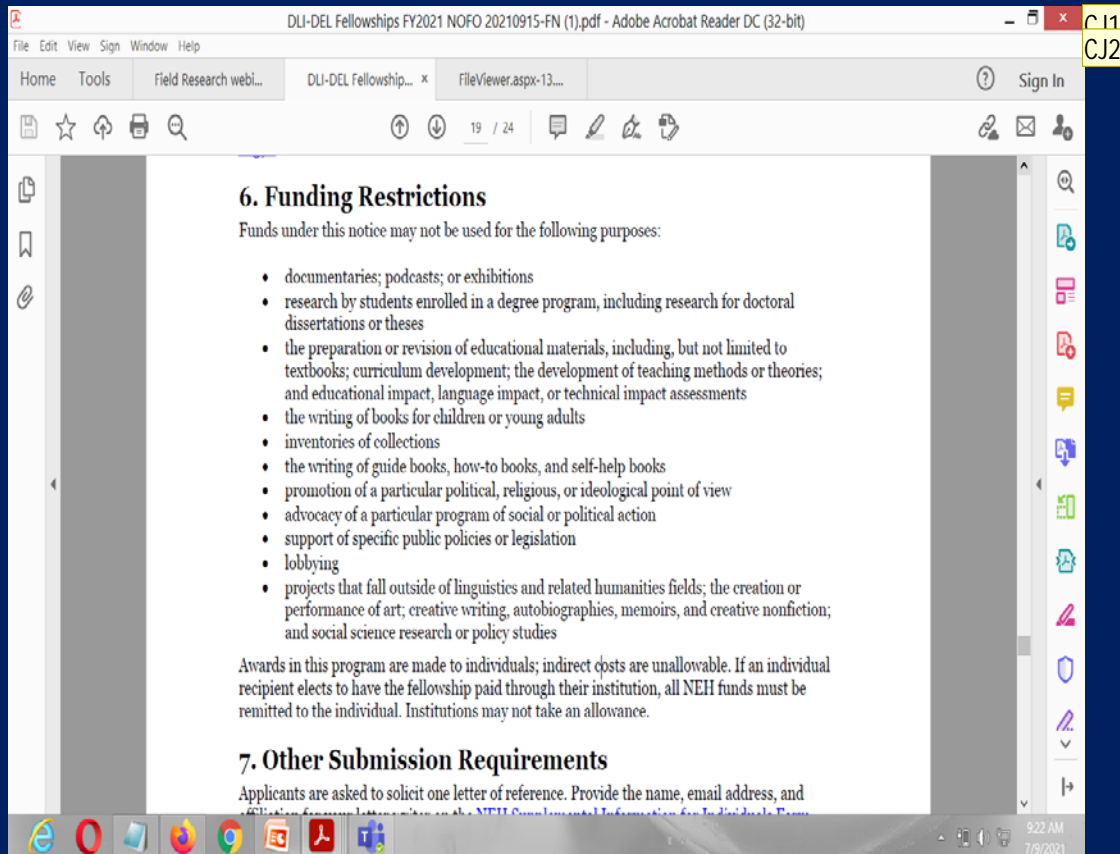
The second criterion are Methods and Preparation: It is important to explain the conception and description of the project's research design, including the depth and extent of collaborations with speaker communities. This part also refers to your work sample, Bibliography, and the speaker Community Support Letter.

The third, are skills, that's keyed to the Narrative section on competencies and skills, and to your CV.

number 4 are The outcomes and dissemination. Generally speaking, these match up with the final product and dissemination part of the narrative. They also include the data management plan and archive letter, where applicable.

The 5th Criterion is the work plan, which is directly linked to the work plan attachment.

Funding Restrictions (Page 16 of the NOFO)



On this slide, you'll see the long list of funding restrictions as they appear in the NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity).

Funding Restrictions (Page 16 of the NOFO)

- **documentaries; podcasts; or exhibitions**
- research by students enrolled in a degree program, including research for doctoral dissertations or theses
- **the preparation or revision of educational materials**, including, but not limited to textbooks; curriculum development; the development of teaching methods or theories; and educational impact, language impact, or technical impact assessments
- the writing of **books for children or young adults**
- **inventories of collections**
- the writing of guide books, how-to books, and self-help books
- promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- support of specific public policies or legislation
- lobbying
- **projects that fall outside of linguistics and related humanities fields**; the creation or performance of art; creative writing, autobiographies, memoirs, and creative nonfiction; and social science research or policy studies

Sometimes DLI-DEL Fellowships do not fund certain projects because other divisions or agencies can fund them. For example, documentaries, podcasts, and exhibitions are funded through NEH's Public Programs division, but not through this grant opportunity. Inventories and catalogs of collections are funded through NEH's Preservation and Access division, but not through this funding opportunity.

Research by students enrolled in a degree program, including research for doctoral dissertations and theses, are not funded here.

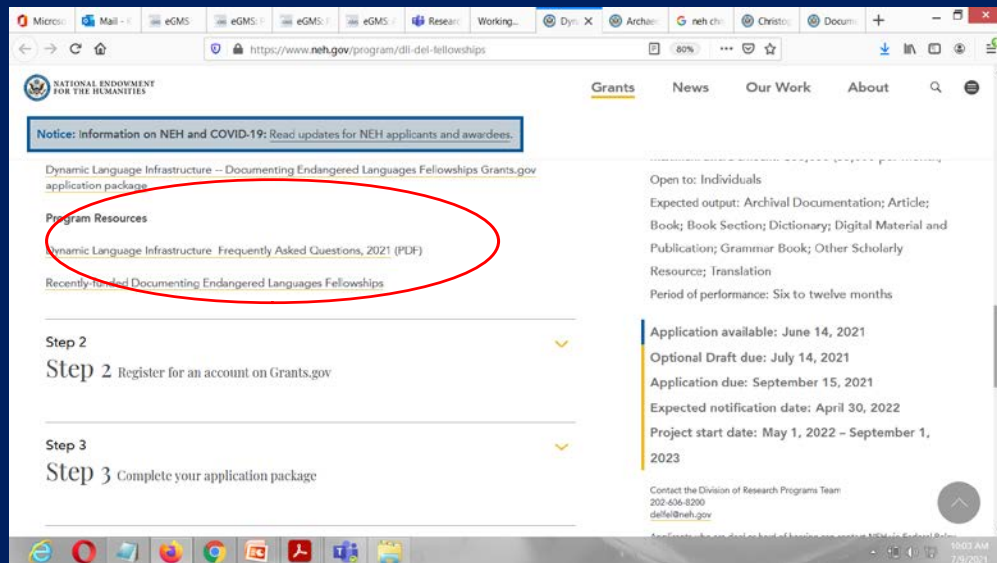
Returning to the list of restrictions of funding, you'll see that the preparation or revision of educational materials, as writing for children, guidebooks, and self-help books are not funded through the DLI-DEL Fellowships.

The Life of Your Application



The review process is quite long, about seven months' long. After the submission deadline on September 15th, the peer review panel will be convened by NEH and will meet late in the year. Then, NEH Staff prepares recommendations in early 2022. After consulting with the Chairman's office, the recommendations are forwarded to the National Council on the Humanities, which is the advisory board that meets three times a year. The council reviews the staff's recommendations in March. The Acting Chairman of the Endowment makes the final funding decisions shortly thereafter. Notifications to applicants are sent out in April. And the start date for the fellowships can be as early as May 2022.

Additional Resources: FAQ Page & Recently Supported Projects



For additional resources, check the FAQ page and the List of funded projects.

Additional Resources: NEH Staff
delfel@neh.gov



Feel free to e-mail or contact the NEH staff who will gladly help you. You can reach us at: delfel@neh.gov, or you can e-mail me directly at skudsieh@neh.gov.

Additional Grant Opportunities: **Individual Fellowships and Summer Stipends**

- **Individual Fellowships:**

- Support for 6-12 months
- Deadline: April 13, 2022
- <https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships>

- **Summer Stipends:**

- Support for 2 months in the summer.
- Deadline: September 22, 2021
- <https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends>

NEH offers additional funding opportunities that are not limited to endangered languages, so you can be working on any linguistics project and apply for these two opportunities. The first one is individual fellowships. This program supports research that last between six to twelve months. The deadline to apply is April 13, 2022, and you have the URL for the main webpage for that program is: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships>

The other program is Summer Stipends. It supports two months of research in the summer, and the deadline is September 22, 2021. The link to that program is: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends>

These programs, each of them, offer funding for a fixed rate is \$5,000 per month, just like the DLI fellowships. Again, you can apply for these two opportunities regardless of what kind project you have, be it on endangered languages or a general linguistics project. But for the DLI-DEL fellowships, your project must deal and examine documenting endangered languages.

Additional Grant Opportunities: DLI-DEL Senior Research Grants

- **Open to Organizations**
- Possible outputs: digital material and publication, dictionary, grammar book, book section, language learning resource, archival documentation
- Period of performance: Up 3 years



This slide focuses on the Senior grants competition, and my colleague Jacquelyn will walk you through this grant.

Jacquelyn Clements: Hi, everyone. It's great to have you here. I am here to talk just briefly about the NSF's DLI DEL Senior Research Grants to help distinguish how these are a little bit different than the fellowships that Suha has just spoken about.

Senior Research Grants, of which NEH's Preservation and Access Division contributes funding and support, are institutional level grants. They are made to organizations rather than individuals. As such, they tend to be pretty collaborative in nature. This effort helps to explore advances in human language technology to build computational infrastructure for endangered language resources and research. The program supports projects that contribute to data management and archiving and to the development of the next generation of researchers. Funding can support various types of research such as field work and other activities, including digital recording, documentation and analysis, and archiving of endangered language data. This also includes the preparation of lexica grammars, text samples and databases. The period of performance for these grants is actually three years and it's up to \$450,000 through NSF, so funding is a little different than the monthly stipends that the fellowships provide.

Additional Grant Opportunities: DLI-DEL Senior Research Grants

- NSF Solicitation 20-603
- Apply through FastLane
- Application due: September 15, 2021
- Project start date: May 1, 2022
- Contact:

Jacquelyn Clements (NEH) - jclements@neh.gov

Tyler Kendall (NSF) – tkendall@nsf.gov

Shobhana Chelliah (NSF) – schellia@nsf.gov

I've given you a link or a number the solicitation through NSF. It's 2603. That's an easy way to find it listed online. Another big distinguishing feature of the Senior Research Grants is that you actually apply through NSF, not through NEH. So, rather than submitting your application through grants.gov, it goes through NSF's system, which is called FastLane.

The next cycle is due the same day as the fellowships actually, September 15th of this year for projects that start in May. NSF also offers an additional deadline of Feb. 15th, so there are two deadlines per year: September 15th and Feb. 15th.

I'll just mention a couple of quick things about the review, that it really focuses on the intellectual merit of projects as well as the broader impacts. And another distinguishing feature is that a data management plan is required. As I mentioned before too, the review is completely conducted by NSF. At NEH, our division of Preservation and Access is on hand to help select and review projects that have to do with our interests, which in effect is supporting the advancement of the humanities, but NSF also supports a number of projects in the fields of linguistics and computational methods that might fit your project as well. I've provided you with my name and e-mail address, I've also given you the e-mail addresses of my colleagues at NSF: Tyler Kendall and Shobhana Chelliah. You can contact any of us. You can also contact Suha. I will put you in touch with the folks at NSF who can talk a little bit more about this program, and I'm happy to do that as well.

DEL-DLI Fellowships Program

QUESTIONS?



Now we are ready to answer your questions. Please type them into the chat or the Q&A area on your screen. If we don't answer them today, please e-mail them to: delfel@neh.gov. The e-mail addresses of the program officers are listed on the next slide.

Contact: delfel@neh.gov

Jacquelyn Clements, Senior Program Officer,
Division of Preservation and Access
(**JClements@neh.gov**)

Suha Kudsieh, Program Officer, Division of
Research (**SKudsieh@neh.gov**)

Christopher Sciotto, Grants Administrator, Office
of Grant Management (**CSciotto@neh.gov**)

Here are the e-mail addresses of the program officers at NEH:

If you have questions about the (Institutional) Senior Research Grants, please contact Jacquelyn Clements at JClements@neh.gov.

If you have questions about the DLI-DEL (Individual) Fellowships, contact Suha Kudsieh at SKudsieh@neh.gov.

If you have any questions about grant management or budget questions regarding the (Institutional) Senior Research Grants, please contact Christopher Sciotto at CSciotto@neh.gov.

Please remember that funding for the (individual) fellowships is set at the fixed monthly rate of \$5,000. This is why you don't need to prepare a budget for the fellowships. In addition, the monthly budget for the fellowships is non-negotiable even if your monthly expenses happen to exceed the fixed monthly rate.

Good luck to all with preparing your applications.