



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS  
**DYNAMIC LANGUAGE INFRASTRUCTURE -  
DOCUMENTING ENDANGERED LANGUAGES  
FELLOWSHIPS**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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## A. Program Description

**1. Can I apply if the language I study is dormant, moribund, or merely threatened?**

Yes, but you need to discuss in the narrative of your application the grade of intergenerational disruption the language has experienced. You also need to discuss the level of endangerment of the language, the urgency of documentation and analysis, and any points you want to make about the language's linguistic, historical, cognitive, cultural, or social significance.

**2. Are endangered dialects of a language eligible in this program?**

Yes. You need to discuss the significance of documenting and studying those dialects in the narrative of the application. Check [recently-funded Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships](#) to get an idea about the kind of projects that have been funded in the past.

**3. May I apply for an award lasting less than six months or more than twelve months?**

No. The period of performance for Documenting Endangered Language Fellowships ranges from six to twelve months. and must be **full-time**. If a full-time continuous term is not feasible for you, you may split your term into two separate active periods, each of which must be at least three months in duration. For example, if you propose a six-month fellowship, you could work on your research full-time for three months in the summer, teach in the fall and spring, then return to your research, full-time, for the remaining three months the following summer.

During the active fellowship periods, you must devote 100% of your time to your project and not take on teaching or other professional obligations.

**4. May I change the period of performance of my fellowship if I**

**receive an award?**

Yes. You will be able to specify the start date of your fellowship after you have been offered an award. This date can differ from the date specified in your application, but it must conform to the start dates specified in section B2 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity. You may also shorten (but not lengthen) your period of performance; all periods of performance must be at least six months.

**5. I noticed that the NSF also has a DLI-DEL program. May I apply to both?**

DLI-DEL Fellowships are designed for individual researchers, whereas the NSF-run component of the DLI-DEL partnership is for institutional applicants. You may apply to both, but if awarded both, there cannot be overlapping costs (i.e., your time cannot be covered by both a fellowship and the institutional grant). If you are seeking funds for more than one researcher for the same project, each person must submit a separate DLI-DEL Fellowship application specifying their individual contribution. Peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate each application on its own merits. Each application should clearly explain how the work will be divided and the extent to which each researcher's contribution depends on that of the other(s).

Collaborating scholars affiliated with an eligible institution should consider applying for a [Senior Research Grant](#) through the DLI-DEL program offered by NSF in collaboration with NEH's Division of Preservation & Access.

**6. May I apply for a DLI-DEL Fellowship if my project was previously supported by a DLI-DEL institutional grant?**

Yes, but in such a case, NEH will review the accomplishments from the previous award to determine whether the project warrants additional funding. If the current application includes work proposed in the previously funded award, this overlap in the work plans must be addressed in the narrative of the application.

**7. I don't have a PhD in Linguistics, but I have a lot of experience in endangered language documentation. Am I eligible to apply?**

Yes, but you will need to discuss your experience, training, and similar qualifications in the application narrative and in your résumé so that reviewers may determine your aptitude to undertake the proposed research project. You will need to solicit one letter of reference from a scholar familiar with the language(s) of your project who can provide an assessment of the writing sample that you are submitting with your application. If your research is on-site with speaker communities, you will need to submit a letter from the relevant community that expresses support for your specific work.

**B. Application and Submission Information**

**8. How important is the format of the application (including appendices)?**

Applications must follow the format provided in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**Applications that violate the format instructions, including page limits and formatting, will not be considered.**

**9. What help is available for preparing the application?**

NEH staff is available to answer questions about preparing your application and about your eligibility. The staff may be reached at (202) 606-8200 and at [delfel@neh.gov](mailto:delfel@neh.gov).

NEH staff will review your draft narrative (up to three pages), work plan, and appendices. Drafts should be submitted to [delfel@neh.gov](mailto:delfel@neh.gov); put “NEH - DEL-DLI Draft Narrative” in the subject line of the message.

If you choose to submit a draft narrative, you must do so by the deadline given in D4. Submission Dates and Times in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and use the format stipulated in D2. Content and Form of Application Submission. Program staff will not review late drafts and will read only one draft per individual per deadline.

NEH staff will email you their comments and suggestions within four weeks of the deadline. The comments provided by staff are not part of the formal review process and have no bearing on the evaluation of the application, but previous applicants have found them helpful in strengthening their applications. Applicants are not required to submit a draft.

Applicants are encouraged to review the list of recent awards on the [program resource page](#).

**10. Is it possible to extend the deadline?**

No. Late applications will not be reviewed.

**C. Application Review Information**

**11. How will my application be reviewed?**

All applications receive peer review. More details about NEH’s review process are available at E2. of the Notice of Funding Opportunity and here: [NEH's Application Review Process](#).

**12. May I see the evaluators’ comments after the competition?**

Yes. The notification you receive about the decision made on your application will contain instructions for requesting the evaluators’ comments. If your application is unsuccessful, the comments may help you revise it for resubmission. Even if your application is successful, we encourage you to request evaluators’ comments as they may help inform the project.

**13. I applied for a fellowship last year and my application was unsuccessful. Will I be at a disadvantage if I reapply?**

No. NEH encourages previous applicants to reapply and does not inform reviewers that an application was unsuccessful in a previous competition. Moreover, NEH employs different reviewers from year to year. However, applicants may wish to revise their proposals, especially after consulting reviewers’ comments.