



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
DIVISION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

DIALOGUES ON THE EXPERIENCE OF WAR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document covers a variety of queries regarding the *Dialogues on the Experience of War* program. Program staff members are available to answer further questions to dew@neh.gov.

I. Eligibility and General Information

May an institution submit multiple applications to the *Dialogues on the Experience of War* program?

Yes, an institution may submit multiple applications for distinctly different projects, so long as the institution is prepared to carrying them out, should more than one be funded. However, an individual may only be named as project director on one application. Overlapping project costs between two or more applications for federal funding and/or approved federal award budgets are not permitted. Each application is evaluated on its own merits. NEH might fund both applications, one, or neither. We strongly encourage you to discuss any plan for multiple submissions with a program officer.

My project is related to the arts. How do I know whether my project is more appropriate for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) or the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)?

NEH supports projects that provide scholarly, analytical, or historical perspectives on the arts, and should be rooted in humanities disciplines. Your project may include a creative component, but NEH grant funds may not support these activities. If your project focuses on the creation of musical compositions, dance, painting, poetry, short stories, or novels, or arts performance or training, then you should submit your application to NEA, not NEH.

If we have previously received a *Dialogues on the Experience of War* award, may we apply again?

Prior recipients with open *Dialogues* awards may not apply. Prior recipients with closed *Dialogues* awards may apply, and will need to respond to additional review criteria. See section

C3 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for additional eligibility information.

If my institution receives NEH funding, may we accept money from other sources?

Yes. NEH encourages applicants to seek support from diverse sources. However, *Dialogues on the Experience of War* does not require such cost-sharing. Furthermore, submitting proposals to other funders has no bearing on how NEH reviews proposals. As a reminder, overlapping project costs between two or more applications for federal funding and/or approved federal award budgets is not permitted.

II. Project Content and Design

What first steps should I take in developing a *Dialogues on the Experience of War* grant proposal?

First, read the Notice of Funding Opportunity carefully, including the eligibility requirements (section C). Be sure to read the review criteria by which your application will be judged (section E1). You may wish to discuss your proposal with colleagues or consult with a grants officer at your institution, if one is available. After this preparation, contact a NEH program officer for answers to questions, advice on the proposal, and review of a preliminary sketch and/or a draft proposal. The submission of preliminary sketches and draft proposals is optional. If you wish to submit a sketch, consult section D4 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the deadline and the [program resource page](#) for the form to use for the sketch. E-mail dew@neh.gov to reach NEH staff, to submit a preliminary sketch, and/or to submit a draft proposal.

Are there examples of funded proposals from past NEH *Dialogues on the Experience of War* competitions?

Yes. Please refer to the [program resource page](#) for sample proposals.

What is the difference between the preparatory program and the discussion groups?

Although they are based on the same humanities themes and may share many texts and sources, they have two distinct functions. The preparatory program trains discussion leaders who then lead at least two discussion groups for audiences of military veterans, members of the armed services, military families, and other members of the public.

What does “sustained discussion” mean? Would a film screening followed by a discussion constitute a sustained discussion program?

Dialogues on the Experience of War discussion programs are meant to be educational experiences, in that they should allow for deep engagement with the sources and full and interactive dialogue that involves each member of the group. The discussion programs should engage the participants in multiple sessions or for enough time to build trust and intellectual community among the group members. The *Dialogues on the Experience of War* program does not prescribe a particular format or schedule for either the preparatory or discussion programs. NEH’s intention is to allow applicants to tailor their program design to the strengths and needs of their audience, project team (including the discussion leaders to be trained), organizational

partners, and host sites. Proposals will be evaluated, however, on the strength of these various elements and how well they cohere.

When should I start consulting with humanities scholars about a project?

As a rule, the earlier that humanities scholars are involved in a project, the better.

May the project director also serve as the institutional grant administrator?

No. The project director may not serve as the institutional grant administrator. The role of the project director must be distinguished from that of the institutional grant administrator, who functions as the representative of the recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the administration of the award. All financial reports and prior approval requests such as budget revisions, extensions of the period of performance, and changes in key personnel must be signed or countersigned by the institutional grant administrator. Similarly, official correspondence from NEH to a recipient (for example, an offer letter, the award document, an extension, a supplement or amendment) is addressed to the institutional grant administrator and copied to the project director. The project director is the person directly in charge of the conduct of the funded project.

III. Budget

May I use a *Dialogues on the Experience of War* award to acquire equipment, materials, and supplies?

The acquisition of equipment, materials, and supplies is allowable when it supports the primary purpose of the proposed project. For example, work on a project website may be facilitated by the purchase of a computer. *Dialogues on the Experience of War* awards may also support the purchase of materials for participants' in-depth study of a topic in the humanities or other resources (such as entrance tickets to a museum exhibition) that are likely to enhance the discussion programs.

Consistent with [Executive Order 13788](#) ("Buy American and Hire American"), grant recipients and subrecipients who purchase equipment and products costing \$10,000 or more per unit with NEH funds should purchase only American-made equipment and products. This encouragement does not apply to commercial information technology.

May the project director use a *Dialogues on the Experience of War* award for the pursuit of independent research?

No. NEH does, however, support independent research in the humanities through its [Fellowships](#), [NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication](#), and [Summer Stipends](#) programs, as well as the [Public Scholars](#) program, and Awards for Faculty [at Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#), [at Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#), and [at Tribal Colleges and Universities](#).

IV. Application Assistance and Review

Does my institution need a grant writer to prepare an application?

No. NEH staff members are available to answer your questions and assist you as you prepare your proposal. Please contact us at dew@neh.gov.

What is the deadline for submitting the application?

Applications for *Dialogues on the Experience of War* grants must be received and validated by [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the deadline specified in section D4 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Grants.gov will date- and time-stamp your application after it is fully uploaded. Applications submitted after that date will not be accepted.

NEH suggests that you submit your application no later than noon (Eastern Time) on the day of the deadline. Doing so will leave you time to contact the Grants.gov help desk for support, should you encounter a technical problem of some kind. The Grants.gov help desk is now available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day (except on [federal holidays](#)), at 1-800-518-4726. You can also send an e-mail message to support@grants.gov.

How do I know if I have submitted my application successfully?

[Confirm that you successfully submitted your application](#). It is your responsibility as an applicant to confirm that Grants.gov and subsequently NEH have received your application.

NEH will assign a tracking number beginning with AV- to your application when it has been received by the agency. The assignment of a tracking number does not guarantee that the application is free of technical problems (such as missing attachments or failure to convert attachments to PDFs). If NEH's system detects a technical problem with your application after retrieving it from Grants.gov, NEH will send you an email notification.

How will my application be reviewed?

Your proposal will be reviewed based on the review criteria in Section E1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity. The NEH review process is described in Section E2 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

How long must I wait to learn the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be notified of the decision by e-mail in March 2021 (Section E4 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity). Institutional grants administrators and project directors of successful applications will receive award documents from the NEH Office of Grant Management by e-mail in April 2021 (Section F1 of the Notice of Funding Opportunity). Applicants may obtain the evaluations of their applications by sending an e-mail message to dew@neh.gov.