



Grant Programs Overview

As the largest public funder of the arts in New Jersey, the Council is committed to providing annual and multiyear grants to New Jersey's nonprofit arts organizations, arts projects, and artists. Strategic, responsive, and responsible grantmaking is the Council's highest priority, ensuring programs and services are equitable, accessible, and have the greatest possible statewide impact.

All programs are accompanied by grant guidelines and a series of technical assistance opportunities either in-person, on the phone, or online. Most grant periods align with the Council's Fiscal Year: July 1 – June 30. Exceptions to this schedule are noted below. The panel categories for organizational grants are as follows (with additions made as needed for project grants): Arts Education; Dance; Folk & Traditional Arts; Literature; Local Arts Program; Media Arts; Multidisciplinary; Music; Performing Arts Presenter; Service; Theatre; and Visual Arts.

This overview highlights current and past grant programs supported by the State Arts Council. If you have questions about Council grants, [please contact the Council staff](#).

Grants for Organizations

General Operating Support (GOS)

GOS grants provide support for the overall operations of organizations with missions exclusively devoted to the arts, and which meet the Council's eligibility criteria. Review and consideration of GOS requests occur every three years. GOS grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment, subject to available funds and contract stipulations. Beginning with FY25, no grant match is required. The Council anticipates the next GOS application process to open in fall 2026, with grants from that process announced in July 2027.

General Program Support (GPS)

GPS grants provide support for the operating costs of full-time ongoing public arts programs that meet the Council's eligibility criteria. Review and consideration of GPS requests occur every three years. GPS grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment, subject to available funds and contract stipulations. This grant is matched 3:1 (\$3 earned or raised and spent per \$1 received from the Council). The Council anticipates the next GOS application process to open in fall 2026, with grants from that process announced in July 2027.

Local Arts Program (LAP)

Since 1979 the Council has worked in collaboration with the network of 21 officially designated County Arts Agencies (CAAs) to extend the reach of State resources and increase access to the arts in communities in all corners of the state. LAP grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment to CAAs to support their local arts development programs, planning and administration; and to regrant funds to community-based arts organizations and projects, which have local impact. In recent years, approximately 600 such grants are made annually under grant programs designed and administered by the respective CAA. Any funds received by the CAA that are not regranted are matched 1:1. The Council anticipates the next LAP application process to open for the 21 designated County Arts Agencies in fall 2028.

Arts Where You Are

Launched for the first time in FY24, Arts Where You Are helped the State Arts Council learn and develop best practices for serving individuals who, for a variety of reasons, cannot leave their residence to participate in arts experiences. The Council worked with nonprofit, service, and artistic partners with expertise in fostering meaningful arts experiences and engagement for specialized populations to build a program over time. These grants are offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Arts Education Special Initiative (AESI)

The Arts Education Special Initiative (AESI) is a two-year grant program that provides support for innovative arts education projects that make substantial contributions to arts education in NJ schools (public, private, and parochial) and youth agencies such as Juvenile Justice Commission facilities serving children and youth in grades Pre-K-12. In recent years, priority is given to arts learning projects that target disenfranchised student populations that have been disproportionately impacted by pandemic related education disruptions with tailored programs that address equity and access to quality arts learning in remote, hybrid or in-person learning environments, or the social and emotional health of children and youth. These grants are offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Arts Project Support (APS)

APS provides one year of support for a project that meets the Council's eligibility requirements. A project is defined as a public activity or event that occurs once during the year either as a single day or weekend presentation, or a series of the same presentation occurring within a very limited and specific timeframe (12-weeks or less). Priority is given to projects that provide opportunities to engage new voices, reach new communities, or encourage innovation in the field. This category does not support on- going or multiple programs or the general operations of an organization. Applicants may request up to 50% of the project's expenses and the grant is matched 1:1 (\$1 earned or raised and spent per \$1 received from the Council). These one-year grants are offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Capital Arts Projects (CAP)

Capital Arts Projects first launched in FY21 and were designed to assist nonprofit arts organizations in addressing operational challenges to help build greater operational capacity in service to their mission. Capital Arts provides funding to support capital projects generally limited to planning, construction, expansion, renovation and/or other major equipment or furnishings. These one-year grants are offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Creative Aging Initiative (CAI)

CAI was launched in FY23 to support life-long learning initiatives for older adults (aged 55 and over). Creative Aging Initiative grants provide \$10,000 to eligible arts organizations, libraries, veterans homes, and senior and community centers to cover costs for two 8-day residencies for NJ seniors/older adults. Beginning in FY26, CAI moved from a one-year to a two-year grant cycle. These grants are offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Long-Term Residency Supplement (LTRS)

Organizations applying for GOS also have the opportunity to apply for LTRS within the GOS application. GOS applicants who have successfully completed two years or more of long-term artist residencies are eligible to request \$10,000 for the support of one long-term, arts learning residency. Successful applicants will receive funding for one LTRS each year of the three-year grant cycle. This supplement is offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Projects Serving Artists (PSA)

PSA grants provide one year of support for a project that meets the Council's eligibility requirements. A project is defined as a program that offers technical support or services to artists who reside in New Jersey or whose work has or will benefit New Jersey residents. The project must demonstrate direct benefit to New Jersey artists. Applicants may request up to \$25,000 in support of the project's direct expenses, and the grant is matched 1:1 (\$1 earned or raised and spent per \$1 received from the Council). These one-year grants are offered pending available funding and current sector needs.

Grants for Artists

Folk & Traditional Arts Apprenticeships (FTAA)

FTAA grants encourage communities to continue passing on their valued traditions in traditional settings, and fund the teaching of folk arts skills from a Master Artist to an Apprentice. Since 1995, these grants have supported apprenticeships in many different cultural communities, reflecting the rich array of traditional arts in our state. These grants provide one-year of support, and each apprentice is required to apply with a master artist as a team. Starting in FY24, FTAA was reimagined as the Folk & Traditional Arts Project (see below).

Folk & Traditional Arts Project (FTAP)

Formerly known as the Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program, this redesigned project-

focused grant program will help ensure the survival of valued traditional artforms in New Jersey communities by investing in emerging and mid-career folk and traditional artists, fostering access to support for building their knowledge, skills, and training in their culturally specific artform. The Council anticipates opening the next FTAP application process in fall 2025.

Heritage Fellowship

The Heritage Fellowship Grant launched in FY23 to be awarded in FY24. To honor and preserve our State's highly diverse cultural heritage, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts will award New Jersey Heritage Fellowships to exemplary folk and traditional artists. These fellowships recognize artistic excellence, lifetime achievement, and contributions to our state's traditional arts heritage. Heritage Fellowship Awards are one-time, \$20,000 awards to individual practicing New Jersey folk and traditional artists to help them pursue their artistic goals. The Heritage Fellowship grant and Folk & Traditional Arts Project grant are offered in alternating years. The Council anticipates opening the next Heritage Fellowship application process in fall 2026.

Individual Artist Fellowships

Fellowship awards provide fiscal support to NJ artists in 13 different disciplines to help them produce new work and advance their careers. The anonymous review process is focused solely on artistic quality as determined by independent review panels. This program is carried out in partnership with Mid Atlantic Arts. The awards are made in the winter and follow a calendar year. Historically, the Council sponsored a showcase opportunity that features the work of recent Fellows in either Visual, Performing, or Literary genres. The showcase opportunities were paused in FY25 to allow the Artist Services team to engage with previous and current Fellows to better understand the most impactful, non-financial ways to support Fellows moving forward. The Council anticipates announcing the FY26 Fellows in February 2026 and opening the next IAF application process in late spring 2026.

Other Grant Programs

Cosponsored Projects (CSP)

CSPs allow the Council to achieve its goals of service to the entire state through a docket of annual and multiyear projects and initiatives, carried out in partnership with nonprofit partners across the state. By partnering with organizations that share the same goals, the Council is able to widen the resources applied to a variety of issues and build a statewide infrastructure of support.

Applications for annual (CSPA) and multiyear (CSPM) projects are on an invitational basis and, in many cases, allow the Council to be responsive to a given need in real-time and when funds become available due to grantee or administrative changes. To learn more about the Council's current programs and initiatives, visit artscouncil.nj.gov.