



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: National Endowment for the Humanities: Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants Program (20200515-CHA)

Date: March 18, 2020

The purpose of the Challenge Grants program is to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by enabling infrastructure development and capacity building. Awards aim to help institutions secure long-term support for their core activities and expand efforts to preserve and create access to outstanding humanities materials. Activities supported by the Challenge Grant program include:

- **Capital Projects** supports the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities. This includes the purchase and installation of related moveable and permanently affixed equipment for exhibiting, maintaining, monitoring, and protecting collections (whether on exhibit or in storage), and for critical building systems, such as electrical, heating ventilation and air conditioning, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management.
- **Digital Infrastructure** supports the maintenance, modernization, and sustainability of existing digital scholarly projects and platforms.

Fundraising is a critical part of NEH Challenge grant awards: up to 10 percent of total funds (Challenge matching funds plus certified gifts) may be used for fundraising costs during the period of performance.

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, NEH encourages projects that promote a deeper understanding of American history and culture and that advance civic education and knowledge of our core principles of government. The agency-wide “[A More Perfect Union](#)” initiative will help Americans better understand the world’s oldest constitutional democracy and how our founding ideals are met in a modern, pluralistic society.

NEH welcomes consideration of diverse topics in American history, from Native American culture to rural life to the rise of the industrial city, from the Civil War to the Cold War to the Civil Rights movement, etc. We also seek projects that examine foundational documents in U.S. history, as well as projects that examine historical objects, places, traditions, events, and individuals who collectively shaped our states and nation. Applications about the contributions of under-represented communities are highly encouraged.

Applicants may request up to \$750,000, with a **required matching ratio of one to one (from nonfederal third-party donors.) To be eligible for matching, gifts may not derive from the grantee institution itself.** Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education may request a period of performance of up to six years for capital improvement projects (May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2027).

Complete program and eligibility guidelines are available at: <https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/infrastructure-and-capacity-building-challenge-grants>. The agency deadline for submitting proposals is May 15, 2020 for projects beginning May 1, 2021.

This is a limited competition. Institutions may apply for only one NEH Challenge Grant per calendar year (either Capital Projects or Digital Infrastructure). Please submit your preproposal (3 pages in length), plus budget, CV, and cost sharing commitment plan, all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font, by

NOON on April 15, 2020 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NEH - your name. Preproposal narratives should include the following criteria:

- **Project overview**
 - Name the type of activity being proposed (either Capital Projects or Digital Infrastructure)
 - Summarize the proposed project and describe how it will directly and indirectly help the applicant achieve long-term goals for its work in the humanities.
- **The significance of humanities activities**
 - Provide a brief description of the **humanities activities, programs, and/or holdings** of the institution and the **audience served**. Explain how an NEH Challenge Grant will enable the applicant to continue to serve that community (or new communities) in improved ways.
- **The appropriateness of plans and personnel**
 - Identify the project team, collaborators, partners, and specialists, including fundraising staff (as appropriate), involved in project activities and describe how the institution has or will obtain the appropriate **knowledge, resources, and capabilities** to successfully complete the capital project (e.g., prior experience, project management capabilities).
- **The impact and evaluation of the project**
 - Discuss the **impact and evaluation** of the challenge grant. Describe how the capital project will directly and indirectly help the applicant achieve long-term goals for its work in the humanities. Explain how you plan to evaluate the Challenge Grant, in both qualitative and quantitative terms (as appropriate). Describe how you will measure outcomes and determine whether the project has accomplished its stated goals.
- **The feasibility of fundraising**
 - Describe the **plans for raising funds** to meet the NEH matching requirement. Offer evidence of long-term financial stability at the institution.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenaar (CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.