

FAQs for NEHC seed grant applications

Can a grant have more than one PI?

Yes, *BUT* one PI must be identified as the *lead* PI for accounting, financial processing, and reporting purposes. The NEHC will only transfer seed grant funds to *one* member institution, and that institution can then transfer funds to other participants/institutions as needed. Note that the lead PI is legally responsible for administering the funds as detailed in the award.

Can the PI come from outside NEHC?

Proposal may include a *co*-PI from outside NEHC but the *lead* PI must be from a member institution of NEHC. The most competitive grants, however, will include a range of participants from NEHC member institutions.

Can members of the NEHC Board participate in or serve as PIs of a proposal?

Yes with the proviso that they will be excluded from evaluating or ranking their own proposal.

Can all the collaborators be from within the same NEHC institution or does the proposal need to involve more than one NEHC institution?

The purpose of these seed grants is to foster collaboration across the NEHC, so proposals *must* involve faculty or staff from at least two NEHC institutions.

Can a proposal include faculty partners from outside the NEHC?

Yes, as long as it also includes faculty or staff from at least two NEHC institutions.

Can a proposal support production costs for a film, podcast, or website as part of a digital humanities or public humanities project?

Yes, but it depends. In accordance with NEHC's mission, seed grants are intended to *promote and strengthen intellectual collaboration, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovative educational, intercultural, and curricular programming among New England Humanities centers and institutes, and the faculty, students, and regional, national, and global communities they serve*. In addition, on the RFP form, we list numerous potential areas of funding while also noting that the list is by no means exhaustive (we want to make space for innovative ideas that we have not anticipated). Thus, applicants should try to link their proposal to some part of the NEHC mission.

Can PIs/faculty participants claim stipends/honoraria for themselves?

In general, including honoraria for PIs in a proposal will make it less competitive. Internal policies at some institutions within NEHC explicitly prohibit paying honoraria or stipends to the PIs of a grant, which is one of the reasons we require that every applicant have the director of the humanities center/institute at their home institution vet their grant application before submitting it to NEHC.

Can a proposal include honoraria/pay for students?

Applicants should check with the director of the humanities center/institute at their home institution for internal rules about paying students (undergraduates or graduates) but an hourly wage, rather than honoraria, is the correct way to budget for it in a proposal.

Can travel costs for in person meetings of participants be covered by the seed grant?

Yes.

Can seed grant funds be directed towards catering costs for a reception?

Yes, but applications that devote too much of their budget to receptions may be less competitive.

Can a portion of the seed grant funds cover indirect costs (overhead)?

No. No portion of an NEHC seed grant can be spent on indirect costs.

Can a proposal be considered if the timeline will exceed one year?

While the award period will typically not exceed one (1) calendar year, the Board can make exceptions if the proposal contains a clear, persuasive rationale for the longer timeline.

When does the award period begin?

The standard timeline is one year from the date of the award letter, which is issued soon after the Board meeting devoted to evaluating proposals (typically in October). PIs can, however, request a longer timeline if there are special circumstances that make it necessary. That request should be included in the proposal. If the special circumstances arise after the proposal has been made, PIs need to write to the NEHC director to request an extension. The Board has authorized the director to decide those cases as they occur.

Can NEHC share prior, successful applications as a model?

No. Only the authors of an application can share it. To gain a sense of the kind of proposals that have been successful, applicants are welcome to consult the [NEHC website](#). The pulldown menu under the research tab lists grant recipients and their projects by year.