

FAQs for NEHC Community Collaborative Grant Applications

Who may serve as a PI of a project?

The PI of a project must hold a PhD and be faculty or staff at a NEHC member institution for the duration of the grant.

Can the lead PI come from outside NEHC?

Proposals may include a co-PI from outside NEHC but the lead PI must be from a member institution of NEHC.

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 Community Collaborative 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.

Are doctoral students eligible to apply as PIs?

No. Doctoral students are encouraged to collaborate on projects and may serve as co-PIs, but these grants are designed to prioritize long-term collaboration between NEHC member institutions and public-facing humanities programs.

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

Yes. If a board member has submitted a proposal, they will be recused entirely from the review process. Their center or institute will not score applications or attend the review discussion.

Do collaborators need to come from more than one NEHC institution?

The participation of multiple NEHC member institutions is not a requirement. For these grants, collaboration is primarily expected between NEHC member institutions in equal partnership with community partners in non-member regional or local community colleges, public universities, public humanities organizations, and public cultural institutions.

Can a proposal include faculty or partners from outside New England?

No. One of the central aims of these grants is to encourage partnerships and foster humanities programming and projects between NEHC member institutions and regional or local public-facing institutions within New England.

What is the maximum award amount?

Awards are capped at \$5,000. For projects with total budgets exceeding \$5,000, applicants should list additional committed funding sources and amounts.

Can a proposal support production costs for a film, podcast, exhibition, performance, or website?

Yes, as long as the project clearly links to the NEHC's mission of fostering collaborative, public-facing, and innovative humanities research and programming. Applicants are encouraged to review the suggested areas of funding interest listed in the RFP, while also noting that the list is not

exhaustive.

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

No, though we recognize that some projects may call for stipends and/or honoraria for the community partners. If you are requesting an honoraria for community partners, please justify it in your application materials.

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.

Can travel costs for in-person meetings of participants be covered by the Community Collaborative grant?

Yes.

Can Community Collaborative 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 Community Collaborative grant funds cover indirect costs (overhead)?

No. No portion of a Community Collaborative 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 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. 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 special circumstances arise after the proposal has been made, PIs need to write to the executive director of the NEHC 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 kinds of proposals that have been successful, applicants are welcome to consult the *NEHC website, which lists grant recipients and their projects by year*.