



The Library of Congress

Of the People: Widening the Path: Community Collections Grant to Individuals

Notice of Funding Opportunity 030ADV23R0050 - Year 3

June 30, 2023

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Library of Congress is announcing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to make cooperative agreement awards in support of contemporary ethnographic field research focusing on the cultures and traditions of diverse communities across the United States. This funding opportunity is authorized by 20 U.S.C. 2101, et. seq. The resulting award will be subject to the Library of Congress Regulation (LCR) 7-310 and provisions of [2 CFR 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#) as indicated.

A.1 Background

About the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library has dedicated significant resources to collecting born-digital materials and digitizing its tangible collections. The Library's Digital Strategy (www.loc.gov/digital-strategy) outlines the ways that technology and digital approaches can enable the Library to meet its goal of ensuring that "All Americans are connected to the Library of Congress." The Library's mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

A.2 Purpose

Through a gift from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Library will support a multiyear initiative that entails public participation in the creation of archival collections. Specifically, the Library of Congress seeks to make awards to support contemporary cultural documentation focusing on the culture and traditions of diverse, often underrepresented communities in the United States today. These projects will result in archival collections preserved at the American Folklife Center and made accessible through the Library of Congress' web site. The major goals of this program are to enable communities to document their cultural traditions, practices and experiences from their own perspectives, while enhancing the Library's holdings with materials featuring creativity and knowledge found at the local level. **As such, successful proposals will come from applicants within or closely affiliated with the community they propose to document.**

Funding through these awards can be used to cover travel, equipment rental or purchase, and other expenses associated with cultural documentation fieldwork. American Folklife Center folklorists and archivists can assist successful applicants in providing support for specific aspects of cultural documentation activities, such as sharing expertise or training in fieldwork methods, archival practices and associated digital technologies. Library staff will be available to provide technical advice and work with successful applicants to facilitate a cohort for sharing knowledge and lessons learned. In consultation with American Folklife Center staff during the award process, awardees have the option to develop public programs connected to their projects in their home communities, as potentially supported by additional funds (see [Section A.4.1](#)). The American Folklife Center is seeking to build long-term relationships with awardees and to give awardees the opportunity to present their work in a forum at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The following list is meant to inspire, but not limit, possibilities with regards to cultural documentation projects applicants might propose. Projects should include a combination of interviews, still photography, digital video, field notes or other forms of documentation:

- Exploration of a community festival or other culturally-meaningful celebration through interviews with organizers and participants, audio-visual documentation of activities affiliated with the event (including planning, set up and post-event activity) and any ephemera or material culture;

- Seasonal or periodic documentation of institutions or gathering places, such as farmers markets, informal social hang-outs, craft fairs or other periodic spaces that might serve as anchors or markers of community;
- Community-centric reflection on emergent cultural traditions or practices that have developed as responses to shared collective experience of widespread recent phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice movements or economic change;
- Broad examination of community-specific cultural practices that can serve as markers of various aspects of identity, such as practices around death or bereavement, life milestones or transition into different modes or phases of living; transmission of language or other intangible aspects of heritage; or informally learned aspects of communication that help cohere a social group;
- Community history of a neighborhood or other type of geographically-delimited collective space that tracks change and continuity from the perspective of current residents, both long-term and newly arrived, via multi-format documentation; and
- Documentation focused on temporality, such as tracing traditions and their changes over time, which can include multi-sited projects, but do not need to be delimited geographically.

A.2.1 Potential projects that are not fundable

The following types of projects would not qualify for funding through this program:

- Projects that are focused solely on oral history, in which contemporary cultural activity is not documented and only one format or mode of documentation is used;
- Projects focused narrowly on the life history of an individual or family; and
- Projects that tend solely to events, cultural activity or communities from the past (i.e. there is no contemporary presence or manifestation).

A.3 Program Expectations and Deliverables

A.3.1 Cultural documentation project

Design, develop and implement a project that enables communities to document their cultural life and experiences from their own perspectives, while enriching the Library’s holdings with diverse materials. The project must feature creativity, knowledge and/or cultural activity found at the local level in existing communities. Successful applications will come from organizations closely affiliated with the community they propose to document. In addition to providing collection materials to the Library, awardees may also retain copies for deposit and preservation in local institutions.

A.3.2 Enhance the Library’s Archive of Folk Culture

Successful applicants agree to provide the American Folklife Center with the cultural documentation materials created during the period of performance of the award. Successful applicants may also choose to keep copies of the collection materials in the community, and American Folklife Center staff can offer technical assistance and guidance to support local stewardship. The Library intends to be attentive to culturally sensitive materials that may be included in a project, and will work with awardees to determine the most appropriate approach regarding access. Successful applicants must adhere to ethical standards for cultural documentation, including obtaining consent and permissions to conduct fieldwork and deposit materials at the Library of Congress. The Library will provide Library-approved release forms.

Successful applicants must submit documentation in digital formats using American Folklife Center metadata forms for descriptive, administrative, technical and other data. In addition to audio or video interviews, submitted materials must include time-coded logs or time-coded transcripts and permission and release forms signed by interviewees. Library staff will provide training and information regarding accepted Library of Congress standards and practices for submitting collections. All digital submissions will be in accordance with the following specifications:

- Digital audio: 96 kHz/24bit or 44.1 kHz/16bit .wav file (only .wav files will be accepted).
- Digital video: high-resolution digital video format (consult with AFC staff for specifications)
- Digital images: high-resolution digital images, uncompressed and nonproprietary file formats (TIFF)
- Text files (for logs, fieldnotes, final report, etc.): Microsoft Word

A.3.3 Participate in symposium

Successful applicants will be invited to participate in a symposium in 2024 hosted by the Center at the Library of Congress. Representatives from projects funded in each year may agree to participate in the non-mandatory symposium to share elements of their documentation and discuss their experiences. The Library will pay travel separately, and participation will not impact an award and should not be included in proposed project costs.

A.3.4 Contribute to blog

All successful applicants will be asked to write posts for the Library blog(s) about relevant topics.

A.3.5 Deliverables

Regular award reporting as described in [Section F](#) below.

A.4 Overview of Selection Process

The Library will use a panel review process to evaluate all eligible and complete applications against the criteria listed in [Section E](#) of this document. Panelists are professionals in the Library and/or field with relevant knowledge and expertise in the types of project activities identified in the application. The selecting official will review panel recommendations and make final funding decisions consistent with the purposes of the program’s mission and goals.

Applications will be evaluated primarily for:

- Advancement of program goals
- Feasibility of project outcomes
- Alignment of applicant background and experience
- Reasonableness of costs and likelihood that budget will support project execution

[Section E. Application Review](#) provides more detailed information about evaluation criteria.

A.4.1 Optional public program

For successful applicants after award, there is the option to discuss with American Folklife Center staff the possible development of a public program(s) connected to their projects in their home communities. Such programs would be designed to share the project locally, among source communities and the public. Hosting a public program is not required, but the option to do so may be supported with up to \$10,000 in separate, additional funds provided by the American Folklife Center, as part of the Of the People: Widening the Path initiative. Applicants must not include the public program in the budget submitted in response to this NOFO. Applicants will be asked to provide a separate budget for the public program after the Library approves the public program. If approved, the agreement will be amended to include this option.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Federal Agency Name	Library of Congress (Library)
Opportunity Title	Of the People: Widening the Path: <i>Community Collections grant (individual)</i>

Opportunity Number	030ADV23R0050
Period of Performance	12 months
Proposal Submission Deadline	August 18, 2023 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Questions Submission Deadline	July 29, 2023 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Expected Start Date	November 30, 2023 (earliest)
Estimated Funds Available and Number of Awards	The Library of Congress intends to award up to 10 awards pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity. The Library's intention is to make awards of up to \$50,000. The Library may choose to make no awards or more than ten awards.
Optional Public Program	Successful applicants may have the option to host a public program connected to their projects in their home communities. In consultation with American Folklife Center staff, up to an additional \$10,000 may be made available as support. The decision will be made by the Library after the agreement has been awarded. (see Section A.4.1).
Funding Instrument Type	Cooperative Agreement

The Library reserves the right to select for award any, all, part or none of the proposals received in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Additionally, the Library may modify the schedule or program areas by amending this NOFO. The amendments will be posted in the same space as this NOFO. It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of the amendments by regularly checking the [website](#).

Applicants cannot recover expenses for proposal/application preparation or submission from any awards resulting from this NOFO.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be individuals who are U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. Eligibility extends to all 50 U.S. states, protectorates, territories and the District of Columbia. If an individual seeks to apply on behalf of one's organization (i.e., in an official capacity), the individual must review and submit an application using the NOFO's for Organizations (030ADV23R0051).

C.2 Other Eligibility Information

- An eligible applicant may submit only one application under this announcement.
- Successful applicants cannot reapply in subsequent years for the same project.
- **This opportunity is only open to individuals.** An applicant that is planning to engage partners, consultants, collaborators and/or service providers (Third Parties), as described below, must include all such related costs in the Budget Plan Worksheet and Budget Narrative Plan. However, the applicant is responsible for all work that will be completed under the award agreement and the Library will have no contractual relationship with Third Parties.
- To be eligible, projects must involve new, original cultural documentation of contemporary cultural life and activities from communities within the United States. **This award is not intended to support research projects undertaken for the completion of university degrees, and the Library will not support such projects.**
- Late, incomplete, or ineligible applications will not be considered for funding under this notice.
- The Library will notify an applicant if their application will not be reviewed due a determination of ineligibility.

- An individual that submits an application may be disqualified if the individual or any principal has, within the past five years, been subject to a finding of fault or conviction in a Federal or state criminal, civil or administrative proceeding in connection to the award to or the performance of a Federal grant or contract.

C.3 Cost Sharing

Cost sharing is not allowed under this NOFO.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

D.1 Agency Point of Contact

Contracts and Grants Directorate C/O Grants Officer	Email: AFC-grants@loc.gov
Library of Congress - 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington DC, 20540	

D.2 Questions and Answers

All questions relating to this NOFO must be submitted via email to AFC-grants@loc.gov with answers provided on a rolling basis until the date stated in [Section B](#). Answers will be provided in an online document hosted at <https://loc.gov/programs/of-the-people/collect-and-preserve/community-collections-grant-application/>. The subject of each email must read as follows: **NOFO - 030ADV230050 - AFC - 2023**.

Webinars

The Library will host a series of online informational webinars to answer questions about this Notice. The webinars will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, July 12, 2023: **6:00pm EST/3:00pm PST** ([Registration Link](#))
- Thursday, July 20, 2023: **6:00pm EST/3:00pm PST** ([Registration Link](#))
- Thursday, August 3, 2023: **6:00pm EST/3:00pm PST** ([Registration Link](#))

Recordings of the webinars and all questions and answers addressed in the sessions will also be made available on the [Community Collections page](#).

D.3 Application Package and Submission Requirements

All applications must be submitted electronically by email in English, submitted on the due date at the time specified in [Section B](#), provide budget and cost information in U.S. Dollars, and must meet the specifications of this NOFO. See [Section D.6. Submission Requirements](#) for detailed information.

By signing and submitting the application form, the applicant assures and certifies that the applicant will comply with the policies and statutes outlined in [Section G. Federal Award Administration](#) and all related Library regulations. Application materials must be submitted via email to AFC-grants@loc.gov.

Applicants should use the checklist provided with this NOFO to ensure that they complete all required documents.

D.4 System for Award Management (SAM.gov)/Vendor Survey Form

To receive an award from the Library, successful applicants will need to be registered in a federal system that supports the payment process. Although the Library prefers applicants to register on SAM.gov, applicants can also complete a Vendor Survey Form (VSF) that will be provided during the award process. For the VSF you will be required to provide the following information:

- Name, Address, Phone Number
- Social Security Number or TIN number
- Financial Institution Name, Address, Phone Number, Routing ABA Number, Account Number, Account Title, Type of Account (Corporate Checking, Personal Checking)

If you choose to register on SAM.gov the process is as described in [Appendix A](#). SAM.gov registration or the VSF **must** be completed before an award is made. An award will not be given to an applicant without a completed VSF or SAM.gov registration by the time it is awarded.

Note: If you have an existing SAM.gov registration under a personal LLC, you may request payments to be made to your LLC (provided it is listed as “active” on SAM.gov). You do not need to set up a new entity in order to receive payment from the Library.

D.5 Content and Format of Applications

Review all content and format information before beginning an application, referring to instructions as needed. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the provided Proposal Narrative template attached to this NOFO. The format instructions presented in the template are as follows:

D.5.1 Proposal Narrative and Format

The proposal narrative (see template attached) should include a cover sheet, narrative and appendices as described below. The main body of the proposal must not be longer than 5 double-spaced pages in 11-point or 12-point font (spacing and font restrictions do not apply to the appendices). The body of the proposal and any necessary appendices of supporting documents must be combined into one file.

Applicants must submit one (1) electronic file of the proposal narrative (one MS Word version or one PDF version).

The Proposal Narrative must include the following sections:

A. Cover Page

- Working title of proposed project
- Applicant’s name, phone number, mailing and email addresses
- Unique Entity ID (SAM) and/or EIN/TIN, as applicable
- Date of submittal
- A single-spaced (max 200 word) project summary (main aims and project activities)

B. Project Details

See Project Narrative template provided for additional information. Applicants must complete all sections of the template.

C. Appendices

- Brief resumes for the primary people named in the proposal. For project staff not known by name by the application deadline, applicant should provide a position description that identifies the qualities, range of experience and education necessary to successfully implement and complete project activities.

- Other information described in Section D.5.1.1 below as applicable.

D.5.1.1 Other Information – As Applicable

If any of the following special circumstances are relevant to your specific circumstances, you **must** include certain information as an attachment to your proposal. List under “Other Information – (Insert Name of the Relevant Section).”

a) Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Recipients must notify the Grants Officer (GO) immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arises during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any sub-recipient under the award. Federal employees may be eligible for awards; however, to avoid conflicts of interest or appearances of conflicts, such individuals must verify that the proposed project is distinguishable from present federal employment and position requirements and will be performed in one’s personal capacity. The Library will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a potential conflict exists. If it does, the Library will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Library may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.339 Remedies for Noncompliance](#), including termination of the award.

b) Finding of Fault or Convictions in Past 5 Years

If, within the past 5 years, applicant or any principal has been subject to a finding of fault or conviction in any Federal or state criminal, civil, or administrative legal proceeding in connection to the award to or the performance of a Federal grant or contract, then you must provide an explanation. The explanation should include information about each proceeding, namely:

- **Instrument.** This is the type of proceedings instrument, such as U.S. Federal issued contract, U.S. Federal issued grant/assistance instrument, State issued contract, and State issued grant.
- **State.** The state where proceeding occurred
- **Instrument Number.** The official number of the proceeding as assigned by instrument.
- **Type of Proceeding,** i.e., Administrative, Criminal, or Civil.
Disposition, either Conviction/Finding of Fault or Other acknowledgment of fault.
- **Description of the Proceeding.** A comprehensive description (approx. 500 words) of the proceeding.

c) Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regards to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. In the description, you should:

- Identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and end the statement with “We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the Library of Congress in this application, we will immediately notify the Library of Congress point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing.”

d) Applications with Proprietary Data

The Library may share award applications, work products, and reports with Library employees, external reviewers, or the general public to further the mission of the agency. Therefore, the Library discourages inclusion of proprietary data or information in applications. However, if a proposal contains information that constitutes a trade secret, proprietary commercial or financial

information, or similar confidential information, the Library will handle such information in accordance with applicable law and provided that the information is clearly marked by the applicant. Note that any funded proposal will be considered an integral part of the award and normally will be made available to the public upon request and in accordance with applicable law.

Applicants who include propriety data must mark the cover page with the following: “This application includes marked proprietary data that must not be disclosed, duplicated, used, or disclosed for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, an award is made as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government will have the right to duplicate, use, and disclose the data. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government’s right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets {insert sheet numbers}.” Additionally, the applicant must mark the specific data it wishes to restrict with the following: “Use or disclosure of this data is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application.”

D.5.2 Budget Narrative (Justification) and Plan

Applicants must complete and provide two documents for the budget. The dollar amounts in both documents must match.

1. **Budget Plan Worksheet** (Excel Workbook – Attached to Notice): Applicants must complete the attached Excel Worksheet (note there are Worksheets/tabs for various costs categories). Applicants must provide detailed costs for all items that will be funded under the project.
2. **Budget Narrative** (Microsoft Word Document – Attached to Notice): Applicants must complete the attached Microsoft Word document that shows a clear connection between the required budget items in the Budget Plan Workbook and the project plan. The Budget Narrative (Justification) is distinct from the Project Narrative and should not exceed four (4) pages, double-spaced, and in 11 or 12-point font.

D.5.2.1 Budget Items

- A) All items in the budget must be necessary to accomplish the project objective, allowable according to Federal cost principles, auditable, and incurred during award period.
- B) Applicants must explain program and administrative costs (including any cost calculations not otherwise identified) to show that project costs are reasonable and will support a successful outcome for the project.
- C) The Budget Narrative should also identify any item of cost that requires prior approval under the Federal cost principles. See [2 CFR 200.407](#).
- D) Dollar amount(s) referenced in Budget Plan Worksheet and in the Budget Narrative should be equal.
- E) Provide details and explain Indirect Costs (if applicable) assigned to the project. Indirect costs are expenses incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be easily allocated to a particular project, such as centralized administrative services, utilities, general insurance, local telephone service, or the salaries of the management and administrative personnel of the organization. See 2 CFR part 200 for additional guidance. If using indirect cost rates, they may not exceed 15%. (Note: the Library of Congress does not adhere to the indirect cost rates

negotiated by other federal agencies pursuant to OMB regulations).

F) Provide details and explain Direct Costs as described below:

Category (see 2 CFR 200.1 for specific definitions of terms used here)	In the Budget Narrative	In the Budget Plan Worksheet
<p>Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: Describe the people/positions that will be involved in the project, including their pay rates or calculation of wages and stipends.</p>	<p><u>Project Staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the people and/or positions (include descriptions for each position) that will be paid with project funds. Describe their role in the project, their pay rate (salary) or calculation of the wages for each person (price/hour, number of hours) and identify relevant benefits rates (if applicable). - If applicant is requesting award funding for salaries of permanent staff, explain the reason for the request and how the regular duties of the individuals will be performed during the award period of performance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter project personnel salaries, wages and fringe benefits. 2. List the title and purpose of each position to be compensated under this project. 3. Explicitly explain how each personnel salary/hourly rates/number of hours aligns with the project narrative and supports the project’s goal(s) in the “Purpose of Position” section. 4. Enter the amounts of time, such as hours or percentage of time to be expended by each position under this project (e.g., 75%, or 30 hours per week) and provide total salary for the person.
<p>Travel: A description of any travel costs, including transportation, lodging, and per diem. For all travel costs, applicants must follow the requirements stated in 2 CFR §200.475.</p>	<p>For each trip, describe the project participants involved, the expected start and end dates, point of origin and destination, the purpose and expected outcomes of the trip, and explain how you arrived at the dollar amount citing specific examples of relevant costs. Please use the General Service Administration’s Per Diem Tool for estimating travel expenses within the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List the travel activities and costs for each individual. 2. Explicitly explain the purpose of the travel activity and how each travel activity supports the project’s goal(s) in “Purpose of Travel Activity” section. 3. List travel expenses for participant(s) to attend all meetings or visit various sites if it is not virtual (REQUIRED). 4. Provide an itemized budget breakdown of travel costs (airfare, hotel, per diem, local travel, conference fees, number of travelers

	<p>continental United States. (For rates to Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. Territories, see the Department of Defense website. For international travel rates, see the State Department website.)</p>	<p>and the number of days for each traveler).</p> <p>5. Calculate and enter the total cost for each travel activity for full term of the agreement.</p>
<p>Equipment: Costs of equipment purchased specifically for the proposed project. Equipment is generally tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000. See also 2 CFR 200.313.</p>	<p>Identify the purpose of any budgeted equipment and explain how you arrived at the dollar amounts.</p> <p>Detail the number and unit cost for each item. Provide vendor quotes or price lists as an appendix along with the application as needed.</p> <p>If equipment purchased previously with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List each type of equipment. 2. Describe the purpose of each piece of equipment and how it supports the project’s goal(s) in the “Purpose of Equipment” section. 3. Provide the estimated unit cost for each item to be purchased. 4. Calculate and enter the total cost for each equipment.
<p>Supplies: Costs of supplies and materials purchased specifically for the proposed project. Supplies are tangible personal property other than equipment (See also 2 CFR 200.314).</p>	<p>Identify the purpose of any budgeted supplies and explain how you arrived at the dollar amounts.</p> <p>Detail the number and unit cost for each item.</p> <p>Provide vendor quotes or price lists as an appendix along with the application as needed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List materials and supplies by nature of expense or general category (e.g., instructional materials and office supplies). 2. Provide an itemized budget breakdown of costs for materials and supply items. 3. Calculate and enter the total cost for each supply purchase.
<p>Contractual: Costs of each third party that will undertake specific project activities such as partners, consultants, collaborators and/or service providers.</p>	<p>List the project activities to be undertaken by third parties for the project.</p> <p>Identifying each third party by name, describing their role in</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include all costs specifically incurred with actions that the applicant takes in conjunction with an established internal procurement system (Required). 2. Include consultant fees, expenses, and travel costs in this category if the

<p>(See also 2 CFR 200.331(b) (Contractors).)</p>	<p>the project, and the nature of their relationship with the applicant.</p> <p>Explain costs for third parties and provide relevant supporting documents as an appendix along with the application.</p> <p>Explain the purpose of each contractual product or service and how it supports the project's goal(s) in the "Purpose of Product of Service" section.</p>	<p>consultant's services are obtained through a written binding agreement or contract that includes all costs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Briefly explain the purpose of each contractual product or service and how it supports the project's goal(s) in the "Purpose of Product of Service" section. 4. Identify the products to be acquired, and/or the professional services to be provided. 5. Provide an itemized budget breakdown of costs for the deliverables under each contract. 6. Calculate and enter the total cost for each contract.
<p>Other Direct Costs: Costs that cannot be assigned to other categories.</p>	<p>Explain the nature and purpose of costs that cannot be assigned to other categories.</p>	<p>Prompts for Other Direct Costs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify all direct costs not previously covered in the other budget categories. For example, include costs such as space rental, required fee, honoraria and travel (where a contract is not in place for services), training, and communication and printing costs. 2. List and identify items by major type or category (e.g., communications, printing, postage, equipment rental, etc.). 3. Explicitly explain the purpose for each direct cost item and how it supports the project's goal(s) in the "Purpose of Direct Cost Item" section. 4. Provide an itemized budget breakdown of costs per item (printing = \$500, postage = \$750). 5. Calculate and enter the total cost for each other direct cost purchase. 6. Do not include costs that are included in the indirect cost rate.

D.5.2.2 Restrictions on Budget Plan Worksheets

A) Applicants may use award funds only for allowable costs as found in federal government-wide cost principle rules. Please consult 2 CFR Part 200 for additional guidance on allowable costs.

- 1) Some examples of **generally allowable costs** under this announcement include: labor-hour charges; travel expenses for applicant; materials, supplies, software, and equipment related directly to project activities; adaptive and/or assistive technologies and other resources and services to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities; third-party costs; publication design and printing.
- 2) Examples of **unallowable costs** under this announcement include: general fundraising or award management costs; contributions to endowments; general operating support; general advertising or public relations costs designed solely for promotional activities other than those related to the specific project; social activities, ceremonies, receptions, or entertainment.

B) Applicants should pay special attention to prohibitions or limitations including:

- Expenses must be incurred during the award period of performance unless otherwise specified and allowed by law.
- Federal funds from other federal awards may not be used for cost sharing.
- For additional information please consult [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 3187](#) for additional guidance on allowable costs.

D.5.3 Required Form(s) SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance

All applicants must complete the appropriate standard SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance attached to this NOFO. Required application forms are available at the [Forms Repository](#) on grants.gov.

For Individuals

Application for Federal Domestic Assistance- Individual

(OMB 4040-0005, Expiration 02/28/2026)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-individual-family.html>

Note: For Block 2 of the form, the CFDA number is 42.011 for AFC awards.

If you experience any issues downloading or opening the form, please follow [these instructions](#) from grants.gov. If you still encounter problems with the form, please reach out to the [grants.gov support team](#).

D.6 Submission Requirements

All proposals must be submitted electronically via email as described and by the day and time specified in [D.3 Application Package and Submission](#) and with the following requirements:

- Submit all application materials to AFC-grants@loc.gov.
- The email must include the opportunity number (030ADV23R0050) in the subject line.

- The applicant should understand the file size limits for Library email are as follows:
 - The maximum size file allowed through the Library’s email system is 20MB. In addition, certain files might need to undergo a conversion to be accepted by the Library’s servers. This conversion increases the file size by 30% to 40%, therefore, please take this into consideration, when determining file sizes.
 - The Library’s email system cannot accept files greater than 20MB. If needed, applicant may send application materials across multiple emails but must ensure they are all clearly identified, with the opportunity number (030ADV22R0050) and an identifier (“1 of X emails”, “2 of X emails”, etc.) in the subject line.
- If an applicant feels that the application materials will exceed the size limits stated above and is unable to send the documents on separate emails as stated above. The applicant may send an email to AFC-grants@loc.gov, **NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM on July 28, 2023, EASTERN TIME** to request help with sending the application materials. Please note that this is a day before the due date for applications stated in [Section B](#). The Library will not provide assistance if the email is received after this date and time
- Required file naming conventions are as follows:
 - [Notice #] – [Individual Short Name] – [Document Name]
 - E.g. 030ADV23R0050 – Smith – Project Narrative
- Applicant must not submit zipped or locked files.
- Applicant must not submit files via a third-party website (such as OneDrive or Box.com).

E. APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARD

E.1 Criteria for Proposal Evaluation

The Library will assemble panels comprising a member of the American Folklife Center Board of Trustees, American Folklife Center staff, and invited panelists. This committee will assess each proposal on its feasibility, alignment with stated program goals, contributions to the cultural and geographic diversity of AFC holdings and articulated value to the community of origin.

Specifically, key considerations in evaluating each application will be:

A) Advancement of program goals

- The extent to which the applicant’s proposal shows a connection to the community proposed. Applicants must articulate the relationships to the community and its cultural practices.
- The extent to which applicant provided information on the types of cultural activity, experience, and/or traditions they will document. Applicants must offer examples of the kinds of community cultural practices (e.g. events, performances, material culture) that will be documented and the methods and technologies that will be used (e.g. audio-recorded interviews, photographs, descriptive notes).
- The extent to which the significance of the project is made clear, and its potential to help raise public awareness of the documented cultural activity and community.

B) Feasibility of successful project outcomes

- The extent to which the project design, implementation plan, and timeline aligns with the availability of the project personnel and access to cultural activity. Successful applications will provide evidence that the project can succeed and that the scale and scope is appropriate to the proposed budget and 12-month award period.

- The extent to which the applicant has outlined and addressed any logistical factors or contingencies that could impede project success, such as: access to community and/or cultural activity, scheduling or other time dependencies, availability of team members or collaborators or any travel-related risks.
- To what degree has the applicant shown they possess the capacity to successfully complete the project and meet stated aims?

C) Background and experience

- Applicant demonstrates they have experience, training, and/or skills supporting completion of the project. Formal training or credentials in ethnography/cultural documentation/fieldwork methods are not required, but familiarity with documentary tools and methods enhance proposal competitiveness.
- Do the identified collaborators, consultants, and/or service providers possess the skills necessary to complete the work?
- The extent to which the applicant’s proposal demonstrates connection to a community, and that the project has value for the community.

D) Reasonableness of costs and likelihood that budget will support project execution

- Has applicant demonstrated an understanding of the financial aspects of the proposed project?
- Can applicant support and complete proposed activities in the time allocated, through the effective deployment and management of resources, including personnel, travel, equipment, and supplies?
- Are costs allowable under the cost principles found in [2 CFR 200 Subpart E](#)?

E.2 Notice of Federal Award

Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. The Library reserves the right to award without requesting clarification or additional detail on the application.

Once all outstanding issues have been resolved, the GO will send a draft Award Agreement via email to the successful applicant(s) for review, comments and or acceptance to be followed by full execution of the Award Agreement. The Award Agreement will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests.

Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by email, within 60 days of the final review decision.

E.3 Pre-award Risk Assessments

The successful applicant is responsible for ensuring achievement of the objectives described in this NOFO. Therefore, the applicant must be a responsible entity. The GO will decide on whether to subject the applicant to a pre-award survey, and based on the results, will make a determination if the prospective recipient is a responsible entity, whether the prospective recipient has the necessary, experience, accounting, and operational controls, financial resources, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program and comply with the terms and conditions of the award.

For conducting the risk assessment, the applicant may be asked to complete a pre-award survey – provided after completion of the evaluation process and before award. If notified by the Library that a pre-award survey is necessary, applicants must prepare in advance the required information and

documents. A pre-award survey does not commit the Library to make an award to any institution or individual.

Depending on its result of the risk assessment, the Library may determine to execute the award, not execute the award, or award with “specific conditions” ([2 CFR 200.208](#)).

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

F.1 Approval Needed for Modifications to Proposed Work or Budget

Any project carried out under an award must be consistent with the proposal that is approved for funding by the Library. Any significant change to a project’s programmatic scope or planned budget requires the Library’s explicit consent. The awardee shall submit, in writing (including email), all requests for a change to a project to the appropriate Library program officer for approval.

F.2 Project Reporting

Awardees must adhere to all reporting requirements listed below. You should submit all reports by the due date for approval to the GO via email. In addition to the reports below, the GO may request additional information to contribute to the internal Library project reviews.

F.2.1 Project Development Plan

Awardees are required to submit a project development plan detailing major activity and milestones, including semi-annual status updates and regular review by Library staff, within thirty (30) days of award for the Library’s approval.

F.2.2 Performance and Financial Reports

Interim Reports: Awardees are required to submit an **interim** performance report due on six (6) month “anniversary” of the initial award. The interim report should include:

- A description of activities undertaken to date;
- Identification of any challenges and how they were, or are planned to be, resolved; and
- A review of project expenditures to date by category and notification of any anticipated changes to the project’s spend plan.

An interim report can take the form of a memorandum (approx. 1-2 pages) to the attention of “OTP Program Technical Contact” sent in PDF or Microsoft Word format. Financial data must be submitted on the SF-425 Form and on the budget summary report (the latter form will be provided to awardees by the Library). Financial expenditures should be reported no less than twice annually.

Final Report: A final performance report must provide qualitative and quantitative information describing activities carried out and specific results achieved during the period, namely:

- A description of activities undertaken;
- A comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award described in the project plan;
- A description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate;
- Key implementation challenges encountered and how they were, or are planned to be, resolved;
- A review of the project’s budget (projected vs. actual) including specification of any significant variance using the Budget Narrative Charts; and
- Any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.

Each report shall be accompanied by the Post-Award Federal Financial Report Form SF-425 available for [download](#) on grants.gov.

The final report shall take the form of a report (with cover and table of contents) sent in PDF or Microsoft Word format.

Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date.

F.2.3 Notification of Significant Developments

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have or could have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Library in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. The notification must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.

The recipient should also notify the Library in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

G. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION

G.1 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards resulting from this NOFO will be administered in accordance with the Library of Congress' Regulation LCR 7-310 (Grants and Funded Cooperative Agreements), policies in [2 CFR 200](#) (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards) described here and in the award, the Library General Terms and Conditions identified herein, and the Library Assurances and Certifications ([Appendix B](#)). Entities that receive Library funding must be familiar with these requirements and comply with applicable law.

G.2 General Terms and Conditions

Guidance. Additional OMB guidance may be incorporated by reference into awards and, unless otherwise specified, includes the provisions identified herein. All such guidance will be administered in accordance with standard deferral requirements for award agreements and as interpreted by the Library, including: [2 CFR 200](#), subparts D, E and F.

Record Retention. Awardees shall retain all records relating to the award for three years from completion of any award-related projects and as stated in [§ 200.334 Retention requirements for records](#).

Branding. Awardees shall not use the name "Library of Congress" or any abbreviation or subset of the name (such as "LC," "LoC" or "American Folklife Center") to explicitly or implicitly endorse a product or service or materials in any publication, including online. Subject to the Library's prior written approval over all aspects of the use and presentation of the Library's name and logo, Awardees may use the name Library of Congress in connection with publication, distribution, packaging, publicity and promotion of the project or products produced as a result of an award agreement. In addition, Awardees will acknowledge the collaboration with the Library by including a credit line in or on projects created under the terms of an award agreement with the Library that reads "The [title of program/project] has been made possible in part by an award from the Library of Congress."

G.3 Certifications

As an applicant for Federal funds, you must certify that you are responsible for complying with certain nondiscrimination, debarment and suspension, drug-free workplace and lobbying laws. These are set out in more detail, along with other requirements, in [Appendix B](#) (Assurances and Certifications).

By submitting the application, which includes the Assurances and Certifications, you certify that you are in compliance with these requirements and that you will maintain records and submit any reports that are necessary to ensure compliance.

Applicant's failure to comply with these statutory and regulatory requirements may result in the suspension or termination of your award and require you to return funds to the government.

G.4 Disclosures and Other Required Notifications

G.4.1 Criminal, Civil, and Administrative Proceedings Disclosure

Applicant must disclose to the Library all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award in writing and in a timely manner.

Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.339 Remedies for Noncompliance](#), including suspension or debarment.

G.4.2 Total Value of Federal Assistance is Greater than \$10,000,000

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, you must maintain the currency of Proceedings and Exclusions information you report to the System for Award Management (SAM). This information is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G.5 Intellectual Property Rights and Data Availability

Access and Use.

The Library's intention in this NOFO is that the collections created are of maximum benefit to the American people and contribute to public knowledge. To that end, documentation delivered under this award will be deposited in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center, where it will be made available to researchers and other library patrons under existing copyright laws and regulations of the Library of Congress. In addition to digital collection materials deposited with the Library, copies may be retained by the interviewer and/or the local organization participating in the project.

The Library's preference is for projects that extend an open license for non-commercial public use to the collection materials, but we encourage applicants to describe in detail any specific limitations they might predict for portions of the collection. The Library intends to be attentive to culturally sensitive materials that may be part of documentation gathered during a project, and will work with awardees to determine the most appropriate approach regarding access. Interviewers and interviewees will be asked to sign releases granting the Library of Congress the perpetual and nonexclusive, transferable, worldwide rights to use, reproduce, transmit, display, perform, prepare derivatives works from, distribute and authorize the distribution of the documentation. The permission includes use of the documentation for archival purposes (such as preservation and service to the public) and for non-commercial projects of the Library of Congress. This permission authorizes use of the documentation on the Library's Website, on third party Websites, and in/on all existing and future forms of media.

The applicant must describe any limitations on any intellectual property that will affect applicant’s performance of the award or affect the Library’s (or the public’s) subsequent use of any deliverable under the agreement (e.g. potential documentation of copyrighted cultural material). In particular, the applicant must describe the intellectual property in sufficient detail, clearly state any limitations and describe how the Library can use the work with the limitations described or proposed by the applicant.

H. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

Program Technical Contact	
<i>For information regarding CCDI program goals, information about the Library’s collections, or other programmatic guidance.</i>	
John Fenn Program Director, AFC	Email: jofe@loc.gov

Program Administration	
<i>For inquiries regarding financial matters, reporting, and award terms or conditions, including award administration matters (such as requests for extensions or modifications).</i>	
Contracts and Grants Directorate C/O Grants Officer	Email: AFC-grants@loc.gov
Library of Congress - 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington DC, 20540	

I. OTHER INFORMATION

I.1 Payments Schedule

The Awardee must prepare and submit invoices electronically to the Invoice Processing Platform (IPP) at www.ipp.gov. Assistance is available via the IPP Help Desk via email at: ippcustomersupport@fiscal.treasury.gov or by commercial telephone at (866) 973-3131. Invoices shall contain the information required in the award.

The total award amount will be paid in three installments. The schedule will be included in the award agreement and successful applicants will be required to submit an SF-270 Form to request funding.

- Up to 60% within 30 days following project start;
- Up to 30% within 180 days after project start; and
- Remaining 10% following receipt of the final report

Alternatively, successful applicants that choose not to be registered on SAM.gov may submit invoices directly to the Library via email. Additional information will be provided in the grant agreement.

I.2 Other Information

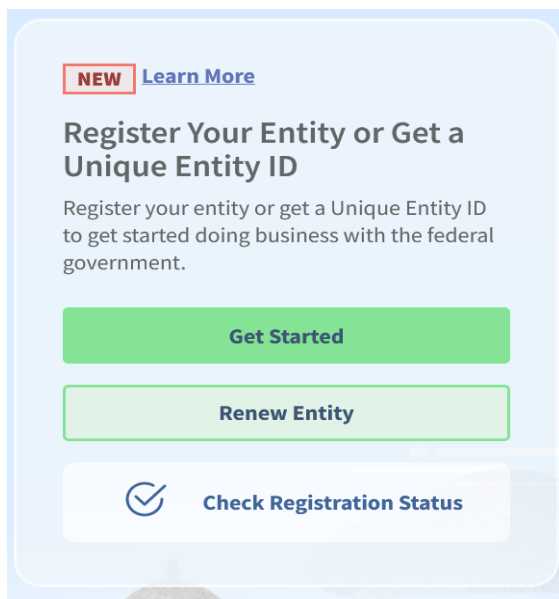
The Library reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The GO is the only individual who may legally commit the Library to the expenditure of public funds. Any award and subsequent incremental funding will be subject to the availability of funds and continued relevance to Library programming.

Appendix A: SAM.gov

Individual applicants are encouraged to register in SAM.gov. To do so you must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number (see detailed description below) by registering in SAM.gov. **There is no cost to register with SAM.gov.** There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free.** Award recipients registered in SAM.gov should continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

How to register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Select **“Get Started”** on the section shown below on the landing page on the SAM.gov website to register. You will have to register as an Entity. An Entity on SAM.gov is defined as prime contractors, organizations, or individuals applying for assistance awards. SAM.gov will issue you a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number.



More information on the registration process can be found on the “Help” tab on SAM.gov.

Once registered in SAM.gov, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. To complete the process on SAM.gov, you will need the same kind of information used to obtain your Tax Identification Number (TIN) and other data to complete registration and reporting requirements.

Appendix B: Assurances and Certifications

Nondiscrimination. Awards are subject to the provisions of: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-83, 1685-86 *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.*); the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statutes that may apply to the application and implementing regulations.

Lobbying Activities. 31 U.S.C. § 1352 generally prohibits recipients of federal contracts, grants, loans or cooperative agreements from using appropriated funds to influence the executive or legislative branches of the federal government in connection with a specific contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or any other award covered by § 1352. 18 U.S.C. § 1913 makes it a crime to use funds appropriated by Congress to influence members of Congress regarding congressional legislation or appropriations.

Drug-Free Workplace. The Library adopts the policies in the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, 41 U.S.C. § 8103, which requires awardees to have an on-going drug-free awareness program; to publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace; to maintain evidence that this statement was given to each employee engaged in the performance of the award; and to identify in the funding proposal or to keep on file in its office the place(s) where award activities will be carried out.

Debarment and Suspension. Applicant institutions or their principals must not be presently debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible to participate in federal assistance programs. An applicant or awardee shall provide immediate written notice to the Library's Grants Officer if at any time it learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. Awardees shall not make or permit any sub-award or contract to any party which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs. Awardees and sub-awardees must not make any award or permit any award (sub-award or contract) at any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs.

Trafficking in Persons. Applicant institutions are prohibited from engaging in various forms of exploitation or trafficking in persons and certify, as a condition of an award, that the applicant will comply with the trafficking in persons requirements that are set out in 2 C.F.R. § 175.15, Award Term.