

Coronavirus Relief Funds for Cultural Support (CRFCS)

Frequently Asked Questions



Who is eligible to apply for CRFCS funds?

Cultural organizations in Oregon who have suffered financial losses due to COVID-19, including:

- Cultural nonprofits listed on the Cultural Trust website
- Cultural entities within a federally recognized Indian Tribe based in Oregon
- Institutions of higher learning that have a significant cultural program or organization
- Organizations that operate county fairgrounds
- Local governments or organizations that operate cultural festivals and/or community cultural events

Where do these funds come from?

These are Federal CARES funds given to the state of Oregon to offset the economic impact of COVID-19.

What can the funds be used for?

Per the US Treasury guidelines, funds can only be used to cover expenses incurred by the public health emergency (COVID-19) that were not accounted for in the organization's budget prior to March 27, 2020 but were incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. These include:

- Lost income due to canceled or postponed public programming due to executive orders associated with the COVID-19 pandemic; including reimbursement to cost of business interruptions such as:
 - Staffing expense
 - Rent or mortgage payments
 - Operating costs
- Expenses incurred due to executive orders associated with the COVID-19 pandemic; including:
 - Facility alterations/cleaning expenses/PPE to meet reopening guidelines
 - Purchase of durable goods or services previously unbudgeted, such as staff telecommuting expenses, hard costs associated with move to virtual programming, etc.

Application questions and eligible expenses

Question 1. Has, or will, your organization experience business interruption caused by required COVID-19 closures and/or reduced operations? Calculate the costs of business interruption to your organization, including costs incurred such as payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments for venue facilities, and operating costs.

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for COVID-19 related costs associated with:

- Business interruption to cultural organization caused by required closures (reimbursement for payroll, rent/mortgage payments, operating expenses)
- Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
- Other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of cultural organization that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

Question 2. Is your organization incurring costs associated with venue reopening, alterations to facilities to meet reopening guidelines, extra cleaning costs or supplies, and the purchase of employee personal protective equipment (PPE)?

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

- Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for use by cultural organization staff in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Expenses for cultural organization public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.

Question 3. Has or will your organization purchase durable goods or services during the covered period that were previously unbudgeted and a necessary expense incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

- Expenses to facilitate distance learning or cultural programming, including technological improvements, in connection cultural facility/venue closures to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
- Expenses to improve telework capabilities for cultural employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to cultural employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

When can I apply?

Due to the limited time frame set by the Oregon Legislature, the application will be open from Wednesday, August 12 to noon (12 pm) on Monday, August 24, 2020. All funds must be awarded by Coalitions no later than September 15, 2020.

How are these funds being distributed?

The Trust has created an online application form to collect applications from organizations around the state. These will be organized into county groups and will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness. A funding formula will capture key data points such as organization budget size, request for funds, and a county per capita calculation to set recommended award sizes for each county and applying organizations. The Trust will support its County Coalitions with their review of the applications, and then send a lump sum to each Coalition to distribute to successful applicants. An award agreement template will be provided.

Who are the Cultural Coalitions and what is their role in distributing these funds?

Oregon's 45 county and tribal [Cultural Coalitions](#) are funded directly by the Trust and are unique to the state. Led by dedicated volunteers, each coalition prioritizes community cultural goals and annually distributes seed grants that address the needs of each county. Among these are Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, whose cultural contributions are integral to the region's cultural vitality. Per the Oregon Legislature, Coalitions are required to review CRFCS applications and funding allocations from applicants in their county, over a limited period of time. Coalitions will be asked to contract with each organization for a determined award size.

What is the timeline for awarding these funds?

All awards must be made to applying organizations no later than September 15, 2020.

Can the Coalitions receive some funding to support the extra administrative work?

Yes, each Coalition may receive up to 5% of their County award to offset additional administrative costs incurred to process grant awards

What are the final reporting requirements?

Organizations awarded funding are subject to 2 CRF 200.303 Internal Controls; 2 CRF 200.330 through 200.332 Subrecipient Monitoring and Management; and Subpart F regarding Audit Requirements. Awarded organizations must keep records sufficient to demonstrate that the amount of Fund payment has been used in accordance with section 601 (d) of the Social Security Act and in the case of an audit.

Final reporting instruction will be provided to grantees shortly after awards are made.

Questions? Please contact your regional County CRFCS program application representative. All emails must include in the subject line "*CRFCS*" followed by *your organization's name*.