

ORGANIZATION FUND WEBINAR Q&A MARCH 11, 2026

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1. **QUESTION:** applying for GOS but the project we are highlighting and want this to go happens in July 2026, but we see that announcements are done in August 2026 - will that negatively impact our application?
 - **ANSWER:** because it is general support you can use the funds for operation and programming. It does not have to be program specific (though it is great to know what work you are doing). The grant period is July 2026- June 2027 for general support so that is in the grant period window. We make the public announcement in August because it takes time to gather photos and details from the grantees.
2. **QUESTION:** I'm curious about the ways a radio station could use these funds? We are a community radio station, and I have a few ideas but am curious if there is an example of how something like this could be applied to a local community radio station. I'm interested in having a festival. Will this opportunity fit? I found out about this opportunity late, so I haven't been able to watch the webinar yet. I plan to after this session. Any and all feedback is greatly appreciated.
 - **ANSWER:** I would suggest applying for general support which would be good to support programming or a festival
3. **QUESTION:** We are connected with a college but other than the administrative support from the college our organization functions as an independent organization responsible for designing and implementing programs, upkeeping its facilities, and generating the revenue necessary to cover programming and operational expenses through earned and contributed income from ticket and associated sales, venue rentals, and foundation and government grants, corporate sponsorships , and individual donations. Are we still eligible
 - **ANSWER:** If your organization is not a college, and your bank account is separate from the college, and you meet the other eligibility, then that should be ok.
4. **QUESTION:** if you're a solo artist who produce and record all of your work and you own management team
 - **ANSWER:** individuals cannot apply for this grant. I suggest looking into the Creator Fund program for individuals that opens in the fall <https://newmusicusa.org/program/new-music-creator-fund/#faq>

5. **QUESTION:** Where is the zoom recording of the previous information session? I was unable to find it on the website.
- **ANSWER:** It is here: https://youtu.be/8dQWc2EP_MA:)
6. **QUESTION:** Can you please clarify what you mean by what constitutes applying under GOS or NWC? The organization I'm a part of regularly commissions new work, with an emphasis on music by women and nonbinary composers. We're applying for a grant to cover commission costs and paying performers. Is this a better fit for NWC or GOP?
- **ANSWER:** live answered & both would be great! new work if you have all the details about the composers ready
7. **QUESTION:** For organizations not receiving a grant, is it possible to receive feedback on our application, so we can do a better job next time?
- **ANSWER:** live answered & Sorry, due to the high volume of applications, New Music USA is not able to provide feedback on grant applications. We receive around 2000 applications every year and are a small team of 3 people. We can't give feedback to everyone, and it would not be fair to only give feedback to some people. Thanks for understanding.
8. **QUESTION:** Is it required for the musical work - if funded - to be performed live, or can it be recorded for the performance? We are a Dance Film organization and always include a live dance performance element to our festivals. Does the applicant's organization need to be primarily a music centric? Can an organization that always features music - much of it original - but whose central delivery is via Dance & Film apply for General Operating Support?
- **ANSWER:** live answered. & For Live Music for Dance it should be a dance organization, but dance film is good too! If you are a dance centric organization, we suggest applying for Live Music for Dance because we get less applications for that funding type and there are better odds of being awarded.
Also, I suggest looking into this program, maybe you or someone you know would be a good applicant <https://newmusicusa.org/program/reel-change-film-fund/>
9. **QUESTION:** Which is the most appropriate for a multi genre music and art festival? Live artists, bands, DJs, flow and fire dancers, character performers, comedy, variety shows etc.?
- **ANSWER:** Sounds fun, general support is what you should apply for if you meet the eligibility. Most of the festivals that have been awarded, applied for general support. You can see past grantees here <https://newmusicusa.org/program/organization-fund/#grantees>
10. **QUESTION:** Still trouble logging in. Will try different browser
- **ANSWER:** please email me at grants@newmusicusa.org and I will help. support@smapply.io can help too if it is beyond what I can do.
11. **QUESTION:** in the " contact information form" it asks for a bio. is this a bio for my organization, or for myself?
- **ANSWER:** Please provide your organization's bio on the application form. You may leave the

individual bio box blank. That is a default contact form for all our programs and not that important for this grant program. You can share your bio if you'd like but it is not necessary. You can write, "see organization bio" in the first section, and just enter it in the application section.

12. **QUESTION:** We are a Live Music for Dance applicant. For the following application question, do you prefer we include the composer only? Or ALSO include the choreographer? The application question is: "Please briefly list the creator(s)/ musician(s) involved in the project, share their bio(s), and indicate their city and state." The previous answer of "Please share information about those who are involved with the proposal" is broad. There are a lot of artists involved— this is a dance company. But your response only has space for 350 words. Therefore, which artist bios do you prioritize within that?

- **ANSWER:** Please share information about those who are involved with the proposal. If you could include both the choreographer and the composer, that would very helpful for the panel reviewers. You do not have to have all the performers involved. We trust your judgment on who you would include to support the narrative of your proposal.

13. **QUESTION:** Any other tips for choosing good work samples?

- **ANSWER:** Please share work samples that support your proposal. If you can share work from the people involved that you are mentioning. Have the work samples share the story of your application and group. We recommend sharing work samples 5 minutes or under. If they are longer please share suggested start times.

14. **QUESTION:** When I click "Apply", it takes me to the Survey Monkey site to Log In. It is not recognizing my account. When I log in from main Survey Monkey site, it logs me in just fine. Is it possible just to search and find the New Music application from there?

- **ANSWER:** Sorry the system is acting up. Does this link work for you?
<https://newmusicusa.smapply.io/> Sometimes another browser helps, too.

15. **QUESTION:** We are an arts and culture organization but do offer music programs but it's not a year-round program e.g. music productions by our refugee community or a youth summer music workshop. Can we still apply?

- **ANSWER:** Sure, that sounds like wonderful work. From what you shared, your organization supports new music and is connected to the community.

What kind of work samples do you require?

Please include 2 to 3 examples of your recent work that you have commissioned, performed, or presented. You may upload mp3, video, or image files, or provide links to YouTube/Vimeo examples. We recommend up to 5 minutes per work sample. You can submit any length of a work sample; however, if you are submitting longer works, please write suggested start and end times to view/listen. Creation of New Work and Live Music for Dance applicants: be sure to include a work sample of the music creator and/or musicians you are planning to work with.

16. **QUESTION:** You said, though, that it takes a week to respond to questions [regarding technical support on the application website].
- **ANSWER:** tech support we respond as soon as we can. usually within the day (excluding weekends)
17. **QUESTION:** Thank you so much!
- **ANSWER:** Thank you for coming!
18. **QUESTION:** By the way... thank you for this information process, and for the work you do. We are excited to apply.
- **ANSWER:** Thanks for taking the time to be here and sharing your questions. We love seeing all the wonderful projects and organizations that apply.
19. **QUESTION:** I'm from an organization that features singer songwriters in performance settings who are frequently, but not always, performing new work. Would our organization be a good fit for this grant, or would you have concerns about our eligibility or likelihood of receiving an award?
- **ANSWER:** That sounds great; I would suggest applying for general support.
20. **QUESTION:** I guess I should elaborate more — this would be funding specifically for the new music-related portion of the organization's programming. Such as updating a studio used by artists in residents working in music
- **ANSWER:** That sounds like a good fit for general support.
21. **QUESTION:** Applying for general support - can the letter of endorsement come from one of our composers whose pieces will be included in our season? He is also a board member.
- **ANSWER:** that works great
22. **QUESTION:** If I miss this deadline, when is the next one?
- **ANSWER:** The application is usually open late February through Mid-March. If you sign up for our newsletter, you will get an email when it is open. <https://newmusicusa.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=de5f0bf49a494050ea04ce2c5&id=8d3ef45613>
23. **QUESTION:** I have a specific question about the different requirements for the budget totals versus a "financial statement" ("Your organization's budget totals over the last three years. "Vs. "Most recent audit or financial statement"). My organization has just become a 501c3 (was previously fiscally sponsored).
- **ANSWER:** the budget totals are simple, income and expense numbers for Fiscal year 26, FY25, & FY24. For general support, we also ask for the most recent financial statement. It could be an audited statement, or the fiscal sponsor could share a profit and loss QuickBooks report. Something like that.
24. **QUESTION:** if an artist has built a community and has a hit song that going viral but needs help to starting up LLC and owning artist name

- **ANSWER:** This grant is for organizations, not individuals.
 - Artist Communities Alliance is another organization that offers support for artists
<https://artistcommunities.org/>
25. **QUESTION:** Question about eligibility, specifically related to length of org existence
- **ANSWER:** we ask that applicants have 3 years of organization history with 3 years of budget activity within the stated range
26. **QUESTION:** How new is it new?
- **ANSWER:** We define new music as music created by living creators.
27. **QUESTION:** do yall help with networking
- **ANSWER:** We do have community convenings in different cities periodically. These convenings do serve as an opportunity for networking.
28. **QUESTION:** hello, my main question is about the work samples: Does NMUSA have a time limit for work sample?
- **ANSWER:** We suggest work samples be under 5 minutes. If you are uploading or sharing longer works, please share suggested start time.
29. **QUESTION:** Will this slide presentation be made available?
- **ANSWER:** Yes, we will email them to you directly after we get all the Q&A answers. Here they are now. <https://newmusicusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ORGANIZATION-FUND-WEBINAR-2026.pdf>
30. **QUESTION:** We are presenting over 50 concerts a year; mostly the ensembles are invited a month in advance. So, it is difficult to list what we will do in 2026-2027. Is general text Ok?
- **ANSWER:** Yes, a general text is fine.
31. **QUESTION:** in the last meeting you stated we can apply for general support and for the new music. If so, would we need to create a whole new application for that?
- **ANSWER:** You can only apply for one or the other. There are a few more questions about the New Music funding type. The rest of the application is the same. The Creation of New Music application asks for "Information about the artists collaborating with Creation of New Work/Live Music for Dance applicants. The creator/musician names, locations, bios, and websites. (Up to 350 words)."
32. **QUESTION:** If you get a general support grant for 26-27, can you apply for a project specific grant for 27-28?
- **ANSWER:** You can only apply for one type of funding.
General support is for July 2026 to June 2027. And Project specific grant is from July 2026- June 2028. That timeline is longer because we understand it takes time to make new work.
33. **QUESTION:** Thank you, I would appreciate some guidance on the level of detail you would like

in the financial report. Similar to schedule C of a tax return if it is for an LLC with revenue of about \$50K per year? We will apply for general operating support

- **ANSWER:** You can share what you already have created. We do not have a template requirement. It can be an audited statement, an existing tax document, and/or a profit and loss report.

34. **QUESTION:** We're applying for General Operating Support. Can we submit more than one endorsement letter as part of our application?

- **ANSWER:** You can upload more than one, but it is not required.

35. **QUESTION:** Can we submit more than composer and choreographer letter of endorsement? I have a third that would be compelling and would like to submit as well.

- **ANSWER:** You can upload multiple letters, but it is not required.

36. **QUESTION:** We screen students' application materials and portfolios to present and commission them for our annual concert, and these students are usually of an international conservatory. Does their status of being a temporary US resident or students affect our eligibility?

- **ANSWER:** You can work with students and folks from around the world, but the funds cannot be used to pay students or international collaborators. The funds must go towards US based artists who are also not students. Are there other production costs, administrative, and organization costs involved that the grant could go towards? The budget could focus on that.

37. **QUESTION:** Can multiple people log in to see/review our application before we hit "submit"? Please respond re: ability for multiple people on our team to log in to see/review our application before we actually submit it? (editing, proofreading...)

- **ANSWER:** You may add collaborators to your application. This will allow others in your organization to see the application before you submit it. Yes, you can add a collaborator to the application. Once the application is started you will see the option

38. **QUESTION:** Regarding eligibility, what about the size of the arts organization's total annual budget? If a multi-disciplinary arts center has a total annual budget of \$10 million, but the performing arts department that programs music, dance and theater have an annual budget of only \$1.5-\$2 million, then does that qualify? Would that arts center be eligible to apply or not eligible?

- **ANSWER:** The organization that would be applying has to meet the budget eligibility of \$5000 to \$3million please. It sounds like your group is over the budget eligibility

39. **Hello,** my question was about the arts and culture program being a part of a larger organization. You answered live. Our arts and culture program does not have a separate bank account, but the money would be going to our program, not the larger organization. Is there someone I can talk to further about this? I've asked if an arts program that a part of a larger 501c3 organization is that has a budget between your budget cap is eligible to apply. However, the 501c3 annual budget is above your budget cap. Our art program does not have a separate bank account, but any funds

received would go directly to the program. Are we eligible to apply?

- **ANSWER:** The organization that would be applying has to meet the budget eligibility of \$5000 to \$3million please. It sounds like your group is over budget eligibility. I will send you an email as well.

40. **QUESTION:** I don't see a place for letter of endorsement for the New Org Fund. Is this only needed for the general support grant?

- **ANSWER:** letters are required for each funding type. It is the same upload spot for all the funding types.

41. **QUESTION:** Good afternoon. Our arts and culture programming is a legally incorporated initiative of a larger 501c3 organization whose annual budget is far beyond your average annual budget cap of between \$5,000 and \$3 million. Our arts and culture programming has a separate budget, that does fit within that budget cap. Would we be eligible to apply for funding?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

42. **QUESTION:** When evaluating impact on artists in the communities, is this a broader definition of artists? Eg: Professional vs youth vs avocational

- **ANSWER:** live answered

43. **QUESTION:** We are applying for a New Music grant, and the payment to the composer stretches over 2 of our fiscal years. Is that problematic?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

44. **QUESTION:** Are there recommendations for applying for funding for commissioning new works versus general support for an organization doing both?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

45. **QUESTION:** I'm an artist looking for grant funds for my album. Is this the grant to apply for that?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

46. **QUESTION:** Follow-up re: eligibility question - Our org has been in existence and incorporated for over 3 years, and we have 3 years of budget activity to share, but we didn't get our IRS determination as a non-profit until mid-2025. Would this render us ineligible?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

47. **QUESTION:** Can we apply for a composition that is commissioned?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

48. **QUESTION:** I know it says "average of \$5,000-\$3M" but just wanted to double check. Our organization is really small, and the last 3 years' budget has been \$6,000, \$4,000, and \$6,000. Are we eligible?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

49. **QUESTION:** Is \$10,000 the limit of what we can request? (I remember you said grants are typically \$7K but run \$7-10K.)
- **ANSWER:** live answered
50. **QUESTION:** In answering the information/contact part of the application, I answered "No" to the question as to whether or not we have applied for a New Music USA grant in the past. However, I subsequently realized that we did apply to the New Music Organizational Development Fund in 2021, although we were not funded. I can no longer change my answer in the application portal. How should I handle this?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
51. **QUESTION:** If we do not receive a grant for GOS, can we submit another next year, either for GOS or for New Creation?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
52. **QUESTION:** So, if we sent an application 5 years ago (not granted), no one would look at that one this time, is it just for your statistics?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
53. **QUESTION:** Do you have questions in a text format?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
Pages 5-6 of the guidelines share the application requirements and those match the application questions. <https://newmusicusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Organization-Fund-2026-Guidelines-final.pdf>
54. **QUESTION:** My team and I are a little confused by whose fees can be included in this Dance grant. Choreographer, composer, dancer?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
55. **QUESTION:** Is there a statement of endorsement in addition to the letter of endorsement?
- **ANSWER:** live answered - they are the same thing and we only require one.
56. **QUESTION:** For the new music grant for a new work, the grant application requires the other repertoire for the season. The new work would be performed in our 27-28 season, which is not finalized. Is it okay to share our 26-27 season repertoire and the outline of the 27-28 season and program in which the new work would be performed?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
57. **QUESTION:** I would love to know more about the review process, and who might be on the review panel
- **ANSWER:** live answered
58. **QUESTION:** Are the awards for both grants roughly the same amount, on average?

- **ANSWER:** live answered
59. **QUESTION:** This year's event will be the five-year anniversary for us. FEST - to be clear, as we expand to year-round programming and artist support, is our collective eligible for an Organizational Grant?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
60. **QUESTION:** Our chamber music concerts always include new music, and we have commissioned music in the past - but commissioning and performance of new music is not our primary purpose. Is this grant opportunity still appropriate for us?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
61. **QUESTION:** For New Music for Dance, you've said it needs to be for completely new work, not expansions or re-stagings. Are works that have worked-in-progress showings eligible for this grant?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
62. **QUESTION:** We teach music production and performance to high school student-artists through a 15-month fellowship. All of the student-artists produce, however some, but not all consider themselves artists as well. About 50% do and have original music out - would we be eligible since some are behind the scenes and not all are considered "performing artists"? We do have showcases and performances
- **ANSWER:** live answered
63. **QUESTION:** *[...] in Philadelphia. Specifically, teach music production, audio engineering and DJing
- **ANSWER:** live answered
64. **QUESTION:** If the organization supports other parts of the arts as well as music/musicians/composers, would the org qualify for general support?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
65. **QUESTION:** A question for another org I work with – we're art + technology based and do a lot to support artists creating music technologies as well as performing and presenting live music with film, a few concerts, gallery shows with sound art, and a bunch of music-tech workshops for musicians/artists in the community. We want to program more music. Would this be a fit for general support?
- **ANSWER:** live answered
66. **QUESTION:** We are applying for support for the commission of a new piece to be performed at a concert in June 2020. The new work will be part of the final program in our annual 7 concert series (November - June). What kind of information are you seeking in our answer to the question: Describe your organization's upcoming artistic programming for the proposed grant period (if available), highlighting your commitment to new music, the new music program

planned, and any artist development opportunities you are providing.

67. For example, should we describe the full concert season, the concert in which the commission will be performed, our general programming profile, or something else?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

68. **QUESTION:** Are competitions / calls for scores eligible for the Creation of New music grant?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

69. **QUESTION:** Many of our board members are also members of the chorus. Can one of them write a letter of endorsement?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

70. **QUESTION:** Is it possible to apply for both GOS and Project-based support?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

71. **QUESTION:** Is there guidance on how recent the work samples should be?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

72. **QUESTION:** Can you please say a little more about what you are looking for in terms of “the organization’s impact on the community of artists and audiences”?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

73. **QUESTION:** I'm in the budget section, what do they mean by "upload current budget including requests from new music USA in our income projections"?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

74. **QUESTION:** What if the bank account for the organization is new?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

75. **QUESTION:** The Letter: We have been commissioning composers for about 4 years. However, I am thinking about a composer who I haven't commissioned, but who has played roles in our organization's projects as a featured composer (with already-composed music) or as a mentor. Can she write the letter? (We are looking at the General Operating Support)

- **ANSWER:** live answered

76. **QUESTION:** from your criteria: “Community Value, Engagement & Impact: ... history of regular and ongoing performance” - how long would you say the duration of time when you say “history”?

- **ANSWER:** live answered

77. **QUESTION:** When you post this recording of the webinar, will this Q&A section be uploaded, too? Thank you for your work!

- **ANSWER:** live answered