

New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)

New York State Council on the Arts (REDC) Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program – Large Capital Project Fund

Q1. What is the total amount of funding available?

A1. Up to \$5 million for the Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program – Large Capital Project Fund. NYSCA also has up to \$5 million available for capital projects through its Mid-Size Capital Facilities Fund, which is not associated with the REDC, but supports requests below \$250,000.

Q2. Are organizations only eligible to apply for one project?

A2. Organizations may only apply EITHER the Large Capital Fund or the Mid-Size Capital fund.

Additionally, organizations may make one request in these three REDC NYSCA initiatives categories:

Council on the Arts – Arts and Cultural Impact Programming

Council on the Arts – Workforce Investment

Council on the Arts – Workforce Readiness

Organizations may serve as a partner on additional applications, but may only be the lead applicant on ONE application.

Q3. Can organizations that have already received 2017 Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement Program Funding apply for Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program – Large Capital Project Fund grants or the Mid-Size Capital Project Fund (Non-REDC, NYSCA only)?

A3. No. Organizations that have already received 2017 Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement Program Funding are ineligible to apply.

Q4. Can organizations apply if they have received general NYSCA facilities support in the past (not through the 2017 REDC ACFIP)?

A4. Yes, as long as they do not have a current application pending.

Q5. Can an applicant apply for the NYSCA Facilities Program, and/or the Midsize Capital Project Fund (Non-REDC, NYSCA only) opportunity and then separately for the New York State Council on the Arts (REDC) Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program – Large Capital Project Fund?

A5. No. Applicants may only apply to EITHER the Large or Mid-Size funds and MAY NOT apply for a project that has an application pending through NYSCA's Facilities Program. If you have a Facilities Program application pending that you would like to withdraw, please email Facilities Program Director Christine Leahy. For more information on the Midsize Capital Facilities Fund (Non-REDC, NYSCA only), please visit the [NYSCA website](#).

Q6. Can an applicant apply to ESD for Theater Renovation for “performance space and seating upgrades” and then apply separately, again, to NYSCA-ESD for “elevators” to enhance public access?

A6. Yes, as long as the projects are distinct and separate from one another and are NOT dependent on one project to complete the other.

Q7. What is the project contract timeline for the Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program?

A7. The grant contract timeline will be determined when the funds are awarded. The length of the grant contract will be developed based on the timeline provided in the application for the project. Contracts will range from 1 year up to 5 years. In any case, expenses occurring outside the contracted grant period will not be covered by this grant.

Q8. What are the minimum and maximum amounts for the grant request and the total project costs?

A8. Only request amounts between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 will be considered.

****For request amounts below \$250,000, please see the Mid-Size Capital Project Fund (Non-REDC, NYSCA only) guidelines on the NYSCA website for the [Mid-Size Capital Project Fund](#). Organizations must select one request and are ineligible to apply to both the Large Capital Project Fund and the Mid-Size Capital Project Fund.***

Q9. What are the matching conditions associated with this grant?

A9. An actual cash match of 50% of the total project cost is required. In-kind matches and/or staff time is not eligible for the match requirement. If the grant request is less than 50% of the total project costs, organizations must still match 50% of the total project cost (not just of the grant request). In no case will the grant award cover more than 50% of the total project cost. Funds from any other state agency (e.g. I LOVE NY Matching Funds, ESD or other NYSCA Fund) are not eligible to be used for the match.

Q10. Are there facilities grant opportunities which do not require a match?

A10. Not through the Large Capital Projects Fund. Please see the guidelines on the NYSCA website for the [Mid-Size Capital Project Fund](#) for opportunities that do not carry a matching requirement.

Q11. Do matching funds have to be in place before applying? Can they be from other government sources?

A11. They can be expected, but must be realistically accounted for via viable sources.

Funds from any other state agency (e.g. I LOVE NY Matching Funds, ESD or other NYSCA funds) are not eligible to be used for the match. Other sources of government funding such as New York City grants can be used towards the match.

Q12. Is there a minimum length that a lease agreement must be to qualify?

A12. While no specific lease term is stipulated in the guidelines, the most competitive applicants will have a long-term property lease and/or first rights renewal option contained in the current lease that does not require landlord approval for a term of six or more years.

Q13. Are structural improvements to a building eligible under the Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement program?

A13. Yes.

Q14. Are not-for-profit schools eligible for grants?

A14. No. The applicant organization must be primarily an arts and cultural organization. Additionally, public school districts, public universities, state agencies, and arts organizations leasing their facility from such an entity are ineligible for funding.

Q15. Are religious institutions eligible to apply for funding?

A15. No.

Q16. Are we required to undertake a bidding process or RFP before hiring contractors for the project?

A16. No. It is up to the organization to determine if their project necessitates soliciting multiple estimates, and it may be useful to describe the plan for this in your application. That being said, applicants should keep in mind that capital project grants will be subject to NYS regulations associated with meeting targets for hiring certified MWBE vendors.

Q17. Do organizations need conservation easements on any property prior to applying for the grant?

A17. No. NY State Parks will develop these elements with the applicant. Organizations are encouraged to consult an attorney for specific language related to conservation easements.

Q18. How many organizations received capital facilities improvement grants in the last round?

A18. Twenty-two organizations received grants through the Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement Program in FY18. However, prospective grantees should keep in mind that the total amount of the grant pool, the structure of the program, and the minimum and maximum request amounts have all changed since the previous round of grants was awarded, and the number of previous awards is not necessarily indicative of the number of grants expected in the current round.