
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Community Cultural Grants

Purpose and History

The Community Cultural Grant Program was created in 1983 Iowa Acts, chapter [207](#) (Job Creation Programs Established and Financed Act) under the Office of Planning and Programming. The General Assembly codified and transferred the Program to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) in 1986 Iowa Acts, chapter [1245](#) (State Government Reorganization Act) and later to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) in 2023 Iowa Acts, [SF 514](#) (State Government Alignment Act).

The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to cities, county governments, tribal councils, or nonprofit/tax-exempt community groups to support the development of community programs that provide jobs for Iowa citizens while promoting Iowa's cultural, ethnic, and historical heritages. This promotion can be achieved through the development of festivals, music, drama, cultural programs, historic restorations, or tourism projects.

The Program is operated as a competitive grant program, and awards range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. Recipients are required to provide matching funds of at least 50.0% of the total cost of the program. The matching fund requirement may be met by substituting in-kind services. Proposals are submitted to an advisory committee that is comprised of at least three representatives from across the State with expertise in the arts, history, and economic development. The advisory committee reviews each application and makes final recommendations to the Director of the IEDA for funding of eligible projects. In reviewing applications, the advisory committee evaluates the following:

- The historical, ethnic, cultural, and tourism value and the quality of the proposed project.
- The number and impact of full-time and part-time employment opportunities for Iowans that would be created by the proposed project.
- The degree of collaboration with other interested entities.
- The financial need of the applicant for the proposed project.
- The appropriateness of the project budget.

Funding

The General Fund appropriation to the Community Cultural Grant Program represents approximately 20.0% of the total Program funding. The Community Cultural Grant Program also receives half of a standing appropriation of \$520,000 in Iowa Code section [99F.11](#) from wagering tax revenue that is deposited in the General Fund. The other half of the standing appropriation goes to Operational Support Grants. This appropriation has been reduced by the General Assembly in the Standings Act each year since FY 2009.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [15](#) and section [99F.11](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [221—6](#)

More Information

Iowa Community Cultural Grants: culture.iowaeda.com/grants
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