

East Central Regional Arts Council

Emergency Relief Fund

Award Guidelines

East Central Regional Arts Council
540 Weber Avenue South, Suite 109
Hinckley, Minnesota 55037
email: grantinfo@ecrac.org
www.ecrac.org
320-336-0200



- Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 -
Grant Application Deadline: Ongoing

*The Artists Emergency Relief Fund Network is stewarded by Springboard for the Arts
and supported by F. R. Bigelow Foundation, Jerome Foundation,
McKnight Foundation and the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation*



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EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL (ECRAC) INTRODUCTION

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) is a regional grant-making agency that supports the arts through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature, The McKnight Foundation and other funders. The Council distributes grant awards to artists, culture bearers, arts and other non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and local units of government and provides technical assistance for these grants.

Mission/Vision/Values:

ECRAC's mission is to support the arts and bring the life-enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents. The vision is that all Region 7E residents can participate, appreciate, create, and invest in the arts. The values of ECRAC are arts in action; integrity; artistic merit; and legacy. ECRAC is committed to providing opportunities for all in the arts by fostering inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in our organization and in the Region 7E arts community.

The East Central Regional Arts Council accomplishes this mission through programs and special initiatives for artists and arts organizations. The work program of the Arts Council includes the following: Grant programs for organizations (501(c)3 non-profits, units of government, schools, or other groups using a fiscal sponsor) are the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, Art in Our Schools, the Small/Art Project Assistance Grant, Resiliency Grant and the Essentials Support Grant (formerly General Operating); Grant Programs for individual artists such as the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, the Resiliency Grant, ECRAC Individual Artist Mid-Career and Essential Artist Award Programs, the Emergency Relief Fund and - IMAGE - the annual regional art show. Other resources include hosting various grant workshops, an arts library, art display equipment rental, an art gallery, and providing other arts related technical assistance and resource information.

ECRAC receives funding through appropriations of the Minnesota State Legislature, The McKnight Foundation and other funders. These funding sources enable ECRAC to provide grant funds for local or regional arts projects in these Region 7E counties of Minnesota: Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, and Mille Lacs; including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands. All grants are contingent upon the availability of funds. Funds are offered to organizations and individuals for a variety of arts projects that develop or enhance local arts, arts organizations, artists, or art audiences.

The East Central Regional Arts Council is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit. The address is 540 Weber Avenue South, Suite 109, Hinckley, Minnesota, 55037. You can reach ECRAC by telephone at 320-336-0200, and by email at grantinfo@ecrac.org. The agency website is: www.ecrac.org.

It is always best to contact staff of the ECRAC for assistance prior to submission of a grant application to determine current funding availability, and for information on the correct application form to use. This also allows applicants time to review the grant guidelines and to ask pertinent questions regarding your proposed grant project.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION – AMOUNT \$500

Thanks to the generosity of a coalition of Minnesota-based funders and Springboard for the Arts, the East Central Regional Arts Council will offer Emergency Relief Funding to artists and culture bearers who are facing unexpected expenses or loss of income due to personal/professional emergencies or natural disasters. Possible emergencies include illness or injury, loss of housing, healthcare, legal, transportation or property loss emergency, or an emergency resulting from loss of employment, contract cancellation, loss of other income, food benefits, or other disruptive events that impact an artist's wellbeing or ability to work. Artists at any professional level are welcome to apply. Artists may be in any art form or discipline. See the ECRAC definition of art on page 7.

WHERE AND HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

All grant program materials can be found at www.ecrac.org. Before filling out the application, it is advised to thoroughly read these Guidelines. Doing so will help you determine your eligibility, understand the selection process and other important information about the program. The information requested in the application is needed for ECRAC to adequately determine your eligibility and to provide required information to our funders. You must answer as completely as possible. The applicant is responsible for the quality and scope of responses. Be sure to include all requested items with your application, or your application will be considered incomplete and ineligible.

The Emergency Relief Fund application attachments include artist résumé and work samples. Applications will be completed and submitted via online application only. Applicants cannot submit any grant application proposal materials by mail, in person, or by email. The online application materials are at: www.ecrac.org/grants. The ECRAC grant portal is available at: <https://www.ecrac.org/manage-my-grant>. Do not apply for more than one Emergency Relief Fund grant award.

Questions? ECRAC Staff is available to assist applicants through the process. Please reach out by telephone at 320-336-0200 or by email at: grantinfo@ecrac.org. Or, if needed, [click here](#) for information on accessing the East Central Regional Library for computer access.

ELIGIBILITY

The following is a list of eligibility criteria. Applicants must meet all criteria to be eligible to apply for this fund.

- Applicants must identify as an artist or culture bearer and be active in their creative practice, including current and past ECRAC grantees. You will be required to list your area of artistic practice and provide a recent work sample(s).
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status.
- Must be a permanent resident, for at least 6 months in one of the East Central Minnesota Counties of Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine, or the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands also known as Region 7E, at the time of submitting the application. Proof of residency will be required.
- Applicants must be applying as an individual. No organizations or LLCs will be eligible for funding.
- Applicants' emergency must have occurred in the past twelve (12) months, and be related to healthcare, housing, equipment, employment, income, food benefits, transportation emergencies, or legal emergencies.
- Returning applicants must not have any outstanding or unacceptable final reports with ECRAC.
- Applicants may not receive more than one Emergency Relief Award from ECRAC and may not receive Emergency Relief Funding from more than one Regional Arts Council in MN.
- ECRAC Board Members are not eligible to apply for this program during their tenure on the Board.

Eligible applicants will be reviewed in the order they are submitted and awards will be given until funding is no longer available.

DEADLINE – Ongoing

Application will be accepted via the ECRAC online Grant Portal on an ongoing basis. Please be aware that ECRAC is a small organization and Staff will process applications as quickly as time allows. All applicants will be contacted with the results of the review. The application will be closed when all funds have been allocated.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ERF) NOTICE

All applicants will receive approval or denial notice via email once a decision has been made. If an approval has been received, you must officially accept the ERF via the online Grant Portal. Acceptance will be issued within the Grant Portal via a follow-up form to be completed by the recipient before payment can be issued. Once completed, the ERF payment will be issued in the full amount requested. Failure to respond to or accept the ERF within the acceptance period could result in the loss of funding. Applicants must monitor their email for official correspondence throughout the application period.

Awards will not be publicly announced out of respect for the applicant's privacy.

What is ECRAC's definition of art?

Art can describe several things: a study of a creative skill, a process of using the creative skill, a product of the creative skill, or the audience's experience with the creative skill. The Regional Arts Council defines "arts" as activities resulting in the artistic creation or artistic performance of works of the imagination. When we say arts, we are speaking very broadly of visual, performing, media, literary, and interdisciplinary art forms through which we learn about, explore, shape, and express the human experience. Every project funded by ECRAC must be an art project.

These activities include the disciplines listed in ECRAC's online application form. The list of disciplines is part of the National Standard for Arts Information Exchange which was developed by the National Endowment for the Arts and other state, regional, and national organizations. Arts agencies are required to report on their activities using this standard set of codes. The Regional Arts Council uses these disciplines to define and report on the art project activities supported.

Discipline	Code	Discipline	Code	Discipline	Code
Dance	01	Visual arts	05	Photography	08
Dance, ballet	01A	Visual arts, experimental	05A	Media Arts	09
Dance, ethnic or jazz	01B	Visual arts, graphics	05B	Media Arts, film	09A
Dance, modern	01C	Visual arts, painting	05D	Media Arts, audio	09B
Music	02	Visual arts, sculpture	05F	Media Arts, video	09C
Music, band	02A	Design arts	06	Media Arts, tech/experimental	09D
Music, chamber	02B	Design arts, architecture	06A	Media Arts, screen/scriptwriting	09E
Music, choral	02C	Design arts, fashion	06B	Literature	10
Music, new-experimental, electronic	02D	Design arts, graphic	06C	Literature, fiction	10A
Music, ethnic	02E	Design arts, industrial	06D	Literature, non-fiction	10B
Music, jazz	02F	Design arts, interior	06E	Theater, playwriting	10C
Music, popular	02G	Design arts, landscape architecture	06F	Literature, poetry	10D
Music, solo/recital	02H	Design arts, urban/metro	06G	Interdisciplinary	11
Music, orchestral	02I	Crafts	07	Folk/Traditional Arts	12
Opera/Musical Theater	03	Crafts, clay	07A	Folk/Traditional dance	12A
Opera	03A	Crafts, fiber	07B	Folk/Traditional music	12B
Musical Theater	03B	Crafts, glass	07C	Folk/Traditional crafts/vis arts	12C
Theater	04	Crafts, leather	07D	Folk/Traditional storytelling	12D
Theater, general	04A	Crafts, metal	07E	Humanities	13
Theater, mime	04B	Crafts, paper	07F	Multidisciplinary	14
Theater, puppetry	04C	Crafts, plastic	07G		
Theater for young audiences	04D	Crafts, wood	07H		
Theater, storytelling	04E	Crafts, mixed media	07I		

Source: Minnesota State Arts Board

ANY QUESTIONS???

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STAY UP TO DATE!

Make sure you are on the ECRAC newsletter mailing list!

ECRAC Mission

The ECRAC mission is to support the arts and bring the life enhancing values they afford to Region 7E residents.

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