

## Frequently Asked Questions, CCCFF 2024 Application Cycle

*This document accompanies the slide deck presented by DED on November 8, 2023, via webinar. The questions included in this FAQ represent those received during the two webinar “office hours” held in support of the 2024 Application Cycle, and those fielded by state staff over the past few months.*

*Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-2706, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, a municipality must partner with a Certified Creative District to be eligible for a grant of assistance under the CCCFF program. This legislative change will directly impact applications by and awards to municipalities associated with the 2024 CCCFF Application Cycle. This limitation does not apply to tribal government applicants or awards.*

*The Application & Guidelines are available from the CCCFF [webpage](#). Questions about the CCCFF program and the application process should be directed to DED, contact the CCCFF Coordinator, Susan Nickerson via [susan.nickerson@nebraska.gov](mailto:susan.nickerson@nebraska.gov).*

*More information about the Certified Creative Districts is available on the NAC webpage. Specific questions about Certified Creative Districts should be directed to the Nebraska Arts Council; contact Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist via [rachel.morgan@nebraska.gov](mailto:rachel.morgan@nebraska.gov) or 402-595-2122.*

### GENERAL

#### 1. Is the 1:1 match funding required to be raised at the time of the grant application?

There is no requirement that match funding be confirmed or secured at the time of application; however, applications tend to score higher overall when a larger portion of funding is secured. No expenditures or costs incurred prior to a CCCFF grant award can be charged against the grant, this includes the 1:1 match requirement.

#### 2. What documents are required to be uploaded with the CCCFF Pre-Application?

The Applicant’s Letter of Intent (signed by the chief elected official) is required for all Pre-Applications. Depending on your project, two other documents may be required with your Full Application\*:

- **SHPO Form.** If your project is a building or historic district that is ≥50 years old, an approved [SHPO form](#) must be included. This applies to municipalities and tribal governments. See also **Section 8.2 Special Policies: Historic Properties** of the *CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines*.
- **NAC CCCFF Proposal Form.** All municipalities applying in 2024 must submit this form. Contact the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) for a copy of the form and submission information. This requirement does not apply to tribal governments. See also **Appendix: 2024 Application Cycle, Legislative Changes: Nebraska Arts Council Creative Districts** of the *CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines*.

\*Consistent with the instructions included on DED’s CCCFF Letter of Intent Template, depending on the applicability to your project, both the SHPO Form (History Nebraska) and CCCFF Proposal Form (NAC) are *recommended* at the time of Pre-Application but are *required* with the Full Application. If your situation would not trigger submission of one or both forms, they do not need to be submitted. Give careful review to the *CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines* regarding the applicability of these threshold items. If you have specific questions, please contact the CCCFF Coordinator.

## 2024 APPLICATION CYCLE, CREATIVE DISTRICTS

### 3. As a municipality application preparer, what should I know before applying for a grant in the 2024 Application Cycle?

Give careful review to the **Appendix: 2024 Application Cycle, Legislative Changes: Nebraska Arts Council Creative Districts** of the *CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines*. This appendix outlines the special policies applicable to all municipal applicants seeking an award in 2024; tribal governments are not subject to these special requirements.

### 4. Are the grant amounts different for 2024 applicants?

Minimum and maximum grant amounts are set in statute; additional restrictions were imposed on the 2024 Application Cycle for all municipality applicants. The table below was originally published in the **Appendix: 2024 Application Cycle, Legislative Changes: Nebraska Arts Council Creative Districts** of the *CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines*, which includes additional discussion.

**No award to a municipality in 2024, including those for planning and construction grants may be less than \$100,000.** For the maximum award available in 2024, municipalities should consult Grant Maximum Schedule B under **Section 6 Grant Amounts** of the CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines. Municipality Applicants adhere to the grant maximum (i.e., Award Ceiling) based on their population as *determined by the most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the United States Bureau of the Census*.

#### Summary of 2024 Application Cycle Requirements by Applicant Type

APPLICANT TYPE	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS <sup>1</sup>		GRANT AVAILABILITY		
	Creative District	Standard Statutory Thresholds	Minimum Amount	Matching Requirement	Type
MUNICIPALITY	NAC Certification Required	✓	\$100,000	1:1	Planning or Construction
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT	Not required	✓	Standard statutory rules apply		

### 5. Is the 2024 CCCFF Application cycle restricted to municipalities with Certified Creative Districts?

Yes, with one exception for tribal governments.

As a municipality, if your Creative District is still in the certification phase at the time of Pre-Application submission, the NAC CCCFF Proposal Form must be submitted with the Full Application to be eligible for a 2024 grant award. A completed NAC CCCFF Proposal Form is a threshold requirement for all Full Applications.

Per statute, tribal governments are not required to have a Certified Creative District to apply for state aid under the 2024 CCCFF Application Cycle.

<sup>1</sup> The information listed in this table summarizes requirements for the 2024 CCCFF cycle, for a complete list of the program's eligibility requirements and underlying statutes, refer to the appropriate section(s) of the CCCFF Application and Program Guidelines.

**6. How do you know if a municipality has a Creative District and if a project is in a Creative District?**

NAC certifies Creative Districts. Establishing a Certified Creative District takes approximately six months. NAC oversees this process. See the list of approved Creative Districts on the NAC website <https://www.artscouncil.nebraska.gov/explore/certified-creative-districts/>.

For questions about the certification process or to see if your municipality is in the application process for a Creative District, contact NAC Program Specialist, Rachel Morgan.

**7. Does the project have to be *in* the Creative District?**

No. The project is not required to be within the boundaries of the Creative District, but an applicant's NAC CCCFF Proposal Form must clearly explain how the project supports the Creative District. An example would be a park located outside the Creative District that hosts an event that supports it, showing a relationship with the Creative District.

**8. Can two projects be combined to meet the minimum grant amount?**

If the projects make sense together, it would be acceptable to apply for multiple 'projects' under one grant application to meet the required minimum grant amount. This aggregation should be discussed in the NAC CCCFF Proposal Form and within the Full Application.

**9. What types of projects are you hoping to fund in partnership with a Creative District?**

The purpose of the CCCFF program is to support the development of civic centers, historic buildings or districts, public spaces, and recreation centers throughout Nebraska. Furthermore, the act is intended to support projects that foster maintenance or growth of communities. This fits well with the mission of the Creative District program. Per the NAC, Creative Districts are designated cultural and economic areas where innovation flourishes and neighborhoods come together in the name of art. For this cycle partnering municipalities with their Certified Creative Districts, we anticipate making awards to projects that bring people together like museums, libraries, community centers and other community-centered facilities or areas that enhance or create geographic 'centers' of arts and culture within our Nebraska communities.

**10. Can money used for the match be part of the \$250,000 Development Grant funding that is available to Creative Districts through NAC?**

Any grant funding, including the \$250,000 Development Grant available through the NAC, can be used as match for the CCCFF grant. The source of match funding is not restricted. The next round of NAC Development Grants opens July 1, 2024 with a deadline of November 2024. Additionally, if a municipality is planning to use matching funds from their 'General Funds', it would be appropriate to consult your municipality's auditor or other leadership on what funds can or cannot be used for this purpose. Be advised: many municipality funds referred to as 'General Funds' may be for 'restricted use', so be sure to consult any local regulations or rules set by your municipality.