

**2024 CCCFF OFFICE HOURS – CCCFF & CREATIVE DISTRICTS, August 16, 11-noon C (10-11AM MT)**

**Presentation Q&A, WebEx Chat log Q&A**

*This document accompanies the slide deck presented by DED on August 16, 2023 via webinar. Questions and responses recorded in the chat log are lightly edited for clarity. In some cases, questions may be combined. Furthermore, some questions posed in the chat were answered verbally, and those responses are summarized here as being supplied by DED or Nebraska Arts Council (NAC). In most instances, non-state persons and specific places are anonymized for privacy. Where a state statute is quoted in a response, that text appears in *italics*. The Application & Guidelines are available from the [CCCFF webpage](#).*

**from PERSON1 to everyone: 11:20 AM**

So, it can't be a building owned by a nonprofit?

**from Jenny B. Mason to everyone: 11:22 AM**

State statute is specific around facility ownership:

*(5) To receive a grant of assistance under section 13-2704.01, the project for which the grant is requested shall involve an eligible facility that is owned by the applicant, except that a municipality may own an eligible facility jointly with a political subdivision if the municipality's ownership interest in such eligible facility is at least fifty percent. In such case, the municipality shall be the applicant for the grant of assistance.*

See also Section 4 of the Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON4 to everyone: 11:28 AM**

Can you explain more about the "ownership" requirement?

**from Jenny B. Mason**

For projects involving municipalities, the municipality must own the property involved in a grant application. Fifty percent of the property may be owned by an eligible political subdivision as defined in the Act:

*(7) Political subdivision means a county, school district, community college area, or natural resources district;*

See also Sections 4 and 8.3 of the Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON2 to everyone: 11:22 AM**

What if the hospital is county owned?

**from Jenny B. Mason to everyone: 11:24 AM**

the statute requires no less than 50% of the facility to be owned by the municipality. The other 50% may be owned by an eligible political subdivision as defined in the Act:

*(7) Political subdivision means a county, school district, community college area, or natural resources district;*

See also Section 8.3 of the Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON16 to everyone: 11:35 AM**

When will the form from SHPO be available?

**from Jenny B. Mason to everyone: 11:48 AM**

[Direct link to SHPO form](#). It is also available from the slide deck and Application & Program Guidelines, which are published on the CCCFF webpage.

**from PERSON3 to everyone: 11:27 AM**

With the award issued by March 30, is the start date on a specific date, like July 1 OR varies depending on when contract is signed and completed by awardee

**from Jenny B. Mason to everyone: 11:29 AM**

March 30 is DED's target date for awards each application cycle. Often, we are able to make announcements prior to that. If an award is made, the date of the Notice of Approval/Award is the same date as your contract start date.

See also Section 11 of the Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON6 to everyone: 11:30 AM**

Is this an annual grant that is offered? Do the guidelines change on a year-to-year basis?

**from Jenny B. Mason**

CCCCFF is an annual grant program administered by DED. While guidelines may change slightly year to year, the 2024 Application Cycle is an exception with the legislative requirement for a municipality to partner with a Creative District. In 2020, DED incorporated two new sections to its Application & Program Guidelines to help potential applicants and award recipients. Legislative changes can be fairly significant, so those are called out under Special Notices/Announcements under the Overview & Contact Information section. Secondly, a Record of Change was added to acknowledge revisions throughout. Each time changes are made this section is updated to facilitate awareness.

**from PERSON15 to everyone: 11:52 AM**

Will there be planning grants available and what are the parameters for those?

**from DED:**

Parameters for planning grants can be found in the CCCFF Application and Program Guide on the CCCFF webpage. The biggest difference for the 2024 round is the minimum of \$100,000 for all grants, including planning and construction. For 2024, the forthcoming special policies appendix will include a table showing the grant floor and grant ceiling for all grants. In the meantime, today's slide deck does include a few slides on grant amounts.

**from PERSON10 to everyone: 11:32 AM**

Was there a maximum amount?

**from DED:**

In 2024, DED anticipates using Grant Maximum Schedule B. This is subject to change based on actual revenue and projections. As done in prior years, DED will issue an announcement in October/November for the upcoming Application Cycle. In 2024, all grants (planning or construction) have a minimum (or floor) of \$100,000. For 2024, the forthcoming special policies appendix will include a table showing the grant floor and grant ceiling. In the meantime, today's slide deck does include a few slides on grant amounts.

For a typical year, see also Section 6 of the Application & Program Guidelines.

Statute allows DED to adjust the maximum grant amount for a project based on the balance of the fund. For more details, see Section 6 (page 9) of the CCCFF Application & Program Guidelines. Note that there is a special policies appendix for the 2024 Application Cycle, and it includes additional information for those applicants under the 2024 Application Cycle. DED anticipates publishing said appendix by the end of the month.

**from PERSON7 to everyone: 11:30 AM**

Will all 2024 grants be required to be used in designated Creative Districts?

**from DED:**

Yes and no. An Applicant's proposed facility must be in or have an affiliation/relationship with the municipality's Creative District (see note). NAC has created a form to assist CCCFF Applicants with meeting this requirement. Contact NAC for this form. Once portions are completed by the Applicant, NAC will make a determination and return the form to the Applicant for submission to DED. The completed form (inclusive of NAC's determination) is submitted as part of the application process. Applicants will be prompted to upload the completed form in the Application Portal.

NOTE: LB927 (2022) & LB727 (2023) established special provisions for awards made in FY23-24 for municipalities applying in partnership with a certified creative district approved by Nebraska Arts Council. FY23-24 aligns with the 2024 CCCFF Application Cycle.

**from PERSON18 to everyone: 11:37 AM**

Is Creative District unique only in 2024 or is this new rule imbedded in CCCFF going forward thereafter 2024 and ongoing?

**from DED:**

Current legislation only incorporates Creative Districts for the 2024 CCCFF Application Cycle.

**from PERSON21 to everyone: 11:44 AM**

Communities that have received planning grants for pools and are not CCD, when would they be able to apply for construction grants?

**from DED:**

For the 2024 cycle, municipalities must partner with Creative Districts for all CCCFF grants, both construction and planning. We cannot anticipate whether the legislature will continue or discontinue this requirement in future years; however, current statute would suggest the 2025 Application Cycle will be "back to normal" operations.

**from PERSON8 to everyone: 11:31 AM**

We received a planning grant in 2022. Are we able to apply for this 2023 construction grant cycle?

**from Jenny B. Mason to everyone: 11:38 AM**

To be considered for an award in 2024, an application must be submitted by a municipality in partnership with a Certified Creative District. So, yes, assuming you meet that criterion, you would be eligible to apply for a construction grant in 2024. We call this the "two-year" rule. Note that tribal governments are not subject to the Creative District requirement and can apply in 2024 without partnering with a Certified Creative District.

See also Section 4 of the Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON 13 to everyone: 11:33 AM**

For Rachael Morgan. We are the library in Chadron and Chadron has applied for a creative District designation, but we have not heard if this is approved, can we apply as part of this creative district in Chadron?

**from Morgan, Rachel to everyone: 11:42 AM**

The community must be certified by the end of the year to be eligible for the grant. If they have questions about the process, they can contact me at the Nebraska Arts Council:

**Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, [rachel.morgan@nebraska.gov](mailto:rachel.morgan@nebraska.gov)**

**Nebraska Arts Council, 1004 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102, 402-595-2122**

**from PERSON14 to everyone: 11:34 AM**

So, if I understand correctly only the 15 certified creative districts are eligible?

**from Morgan, Rachel to everyone: 11:42 AM**

There are currently 15 certified districts, but many others are in the process. They just need to be certified through the Creative District process by the end of the year to be eligible for the CCCFF grant.

**from PERSON17 to everyone: 11:36 AM**

Can there be multiple creative districts with a single community?

**from NAC:**

Technically, yes. However, so far this has only happened in larger urban areas like Lincoln and Omaha. Because of the time and resources it takes to create a district, it can be an overwhelming process; and is more than most communities can take on more than once. Plus, each district needs to have a unique identity, and has to be created with the mindset of inclusion – not because two neighborhoods won't work together. For example, Railside and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Grand Island needed to work together because there was a systemic issue of the two communities not working together, and this program is a way to bridge that. For specific questions, contact me at Nebraska Arts Council.

**Rachel Morgan, Program Specialist, [rachel.morgan@nebraska.gov](mailto:rachel.morgan@nebraska.gov)**

**Nebraska Arts Council, 1004 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102, 402-595-2122**

**from PERSON9 to all panelists: 11:31 AM**

Would making updates or adding a bathroom to our Scout Hall qualify?

**from DED:**

It is difficult to say without knowing more about the facility. Please review Sections 4 and 9 of the Application & Program Guidelines. Included in Section 9 is a table (see Figure 9-1) that summarizes the statutory requirements for eligibility.

**from PERSON11 to everyone: 11:32 AM**

We are a small county seat. Are we too small for any possible grants?

**from DED:**

All municipalities are eligible to apply for CCCFF grant funding. I encourage you to contact your DED Field Operations Representative. The [DED Contact page](#) includes a list of field staffers and a map to help you identify your representative.

CCCFF Eligibility is addressed in Section 4 (page 8) of the Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON20 to all panelists: 11:41 AM**

How likely is it to get a second CCCFF grant on the same project...maybe the 2nd phase of the same building project a couple years after being awarded the 1st grant?

**from DED:**

It has happened. Aside from planning and construction grants, it is not uncommon for a community to apply to fund additional phases of a large project. Awards are dependent upon the application scoring competitively. Eligible projects are scored on the criteria as described in Section 9 (page 12-13) of the CCCFF Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON23 to everyone: 11:49 AM**

Priority is given to communities that haven't received CCCFF in the last 10 years. We received some CCCFF funding a few years ago for a nonprofit historic preservation project ran through the City. I'm wondering if you think it's worth our time to apply again? Do we stand much of a chance? We do have a Creative District.

**from DED:**

All applications are scored with the same criteria based on their type (planning or construction). The priority comes into play when scores are close. All eligible municipalities interested in receiving a CCCFF grant should apply.

**from PERSON24 to everyone: 11:54 AM**

I see in the guidelines "Consideration given for in-kind services; however, at least 50% of local cost-share must be in cash" can you explain "consideration? "

**from DED:**

A municipality may utilize in-kind expenses providing they are appropriately documented. However, as provided in statute, in-kind match cannot account for more than 50% of the municipality's required cash match. In-kind expenses are considered on a case-by-case basis. Perhaps the most common use of in-kind would be where a professional or entity donates their services or labor; for example, an architect could provide an invoice for schematic designs where a portion of those itemized costs are marked as donated; a painting contractor might donate labor and bill the project for supplies, etc. In any case, all in-kind match must have supporting documentation just as any other cost to the project.

See also Section 5 and Allowable Costs under Section 11.1 (page 16) of the CCCFF Application & Program Guidelines.

**from PERSON15 to everyone: 11:35 AM**

Are there any restrictions that may apply if the proposed structure sits within a flood plain?

**from Jenny B. Mason to everyone: 11:45 AM**

Under statute, CCCFF does not currently have specific restrictions around investment in property in the floodplain.

**from PERSON22 to everyone: 11:45 AM**

Can you explain the relationship with a 2023 Shovel Ready Act application again. Sorry!

**from DED:**

Under CCCFF, applicants must be either a municipality or a tribal government. We are not aware of any direct crossover between these two grant programs given the application for the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery & Investment Act was open to nonprofit organizations. Shovel-Ready is a separate, non-related funding opportunity offered through another division at DED. Please consult DED's [Shovel-Ready webpage](#) for more information.

**from PERSON12 to everyone: 11:33 AM**

Will the PowerPoint presentation be available after the webinar, and, if so, where? Thanks.

**from DED:**

Yes. The slide deck will be published on the CCCFF webpage along with a Q&A document. Notice of its availability will be sent to the CCCFF mailing list. If not already, please subscribe by completing the contact [webform](#).