

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Which 501(c)(3) organizations qualify for a Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act grant?

The Act defines a “qualified nonprofit organization” as a tax-exempt organization under IRC section 501(c)(3) that:

- a) Is related to arts, culture, or the humanities, including any organization formed for the purpose of developing and promoting the work of artists and the humanities in various visual and performing forms, such as film, sculpture, dance, painting, horticulture, multimedia, poetry, photography, performing arts, zoology, or botany or
- b) Operates a sports complex.

2. How will the Department determine if my 501(c)(3) organization is eligible?

An organization can demonstrate that it meets the criteria under section (a) through indicators such as Activity or NTEE Codes assigned by the IRS, language in the organization’s incorporation or governing documents, or any other evidence that can substantiate the organization’s relation to the designated fields. If the Activity Codes or NTEE Codes included in the application are not applicable to the applicant, the applicant can choose “other” and provide an accompanying explanation. For section (b), the Department will verify the organization’s operation of a sports complex or legal ability and plans to operate a sports complex.

3. Am I required to have my eligibility documentation at the time of application?

The application requires that all applicants show, at the time of application, that they are related to the arts, culture, or humanities or operate a sports complex.

4. Can our 501(c)(3) application be pending at the time of our Shovel Ready Application?

No. If your organization is in the process of gaining 501(c)(3) status, it is not possible for your organization to have been a nonprofit with a capital project delayed by COVID-19.

5. Must qualified nonprofit organizations own the facilities or National Historic Landmark to be built, expanded, developed, or restored by its Capital Project?

No. But the qualified nonprofit must have some capital interest in the property. Qualified nonprofit organizations must demonstrate that the completion of the Capital Project inures to its benefit. For example, this can be met by presenting the Department with documents such as agreements, leases, etc., demonstrating the organization's legal entitlement to possession and/or control of the property such that improvement of the property would benefit the qualified nonprofit organization.

6. When can a grant application be filed?

Applications may be submitted to the Department electronically beginning at 9 a.m. CT on July 1, 2021. The deadline for applying is 5 p.m. CT on July 15, 2021. Any applications received after this time will be considered late and ineligible for grant consideration.

7. Can a qualified nonprofit organization apply for grants for more than one capital project?

No. A qualified nonprofit organization may apply for a single grant under the act for a single capital project. Applicants should note that a "capital project" is a construction project to build, expand, or develop a new or existing facility or facilities or restoration work on a facility designated as a National Historic Landmark. Applicants will only be allowed to submit one application through AmpliFund, the Department's grant-management system.

8. Will a qualified nonprofit organization be allowed to amend its application after submission?

No. Because of the nature of this program, amendments cannot be allowed.

9. Can a qualified nonprofit organization use federal or state funds for the required match portion? Are there any restrictions on where "private funds" are obtained?

Federal and state grant funds cannot be included as private match funds. Private funds are those not originally sourced from a federal, state, county, city, or other public taxing authority. For example, funds provided to a qualified nonprofit organization by a city from the city's sales tax revenue would not be considered private funds.

10. What documentation is needed to show the amount of private funds expected for the capital project?

As part of the application process, the qualified nonprofit organization must complete and provide the Match Ledger found at <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/shovel-ready-grants/>. This documentation does not need to identify the names of donors.

11. How will grants be awarded?

The Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act requires the Department to consider applications in the order in which they are received. The Department will review and approve applications based on the time of submission by the applicant through AmpliFund, the Department's grant-management system.

12. If a qualified nonprofit organization began its fundraising campaign and initial phases of its capital project a few years ago but activity has been delayed, would the capital project already underway be eligible and would the funds already raised or invested into the capital project be considered for the required match?

Yes. The project and the funds would comply with these requirements so long as a) the capital project was delayed by COVID-19, as defined by the Act, and b) the funds invested or raised are from private sources.

13. Does an otherwise qualified capital project that was delayed due to COVID-19, but which has resumed prior to application, qualify for a Shovel Ready grant?

Yes. This would meet the requirement that the capital project began or resumed no later than June 30, 2022.

14. What would be considered “multiple separate” sports venues under the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act?

Two or more of any combination of the following:

- a) A baseball field;
- b) A softball field;
- c) A soccer field;
- d) An outdoor stadium primarily used for competitive sports;
- e) An outdoor arena primarily used for competitive sports; and
- f) An enclosed, temperature-controlled building primarily used for competitive sports.

If any facility indicated above contains more than one multipurpose field, court, swimming pool, or other facility primarily used for competitive sports, then each such multipurpose field, court, swimming pool, or facility shall count as a separate sports venue.

15. Can Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act grants be used for the purchase of existing building(s) for redevelopment and use by a qualified nonprofit?

Yes, if the purchase of the existing building includes the land on which the building is located.

16. Can a capital project receiving CDBG funding also receive funding under the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act?

Yes. However, CDBG funding cannot be included in the calculation of matching funds that must be raised from private sources.

17. What happens if a Shovel Ready application is approved however the funds from private sources are not secured by payment or written pledge by December 31, 2021?

If funds from private sources are not secured by December 31, 2021, the amount of the awarded grant will be reduced to the amount of private funds actually secured by the organization.

18. Are there any additional statutory or regulatory requirements or limitations placed on this funding?

Recipients must abide by the federal laws commonly known as the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts. The requirements of the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act grants program are currently under development and review. Should additional requirements be created under any relevant legislation or by any authorized agency, this guidance will be updated.