



2025–2026 Guidelines for Statewide Creative Catalyst Grants

Due date: Rolling

Grant activity period: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

Overview

Creative Catalyst is a grant program of Pennsylvania Creative Industries, powered by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), that supports new initiatives and opportunities that advance strategies for empowering, connecting, and amplifying creatives and creative industries and their contributions to Pennsylvania’s communities, economy, and workforce.

Creative Catalyst applications will be assessed based on the degree to which they:

1. Align with one or more of Pennsylvania Creative Industries’ five areas of opportunity:
 - Asset Development
 - Workforce Development
 - Community Development
 - Visibility
 - Policy
2. Demonstrate statewide reach and benefit.
3. Demonstrate capacity to carry out project as proposed.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, unit of government; college or university; or school district providing creative sector programming and/or services in Pennsylvania.
 - Organizations are required to provide proof of incorporation and activity in Pennsylvania before applications are reviewed or funds awarded.
- Fiscal agents and fiscal sponsors are not eligible to apply for Creative Catalyst funding.

Please note the following:

- Typical grant amounts are between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
- No more than 20% of the grant award may be used for administrative expenses.
- A 1:1 confirmed cash match is required.
- Organizations may receive a Creative Catalyst grant once every three years.
- Creative Catalyst funding is not designed to support established programs, ongoing operations, or serve as an annual source of funds. For these types of applications/projects, contact Pennsylvania Creative Industries for more information regarding other avenues of support.

How to apply:

1. Read this document thoroughly.
2. Before applying, contact Jamie Dunlap at jadunlap@pa.gov or (717) 525-5542.
3. Register and apply through the grants.pa.gov platform.
 - Creative Catalyst applicants will be asked to provide the following information:
 - Provide a summary of the proposed project.
 - How does the proposed project align with one or more of Pennsylvania Creative Industries' five areas of opportunity?
 - What is the project's statewide reach and benefit to the creative sector?
 - Describe the applicant's capacity to carry out the project as proposed.
 - How will the funds be used if awarded?

Funding process:

- Creative Catalyst applications are submitted online to Pennsylvania Creative Industries via grants.pa.gov. (Please note: Creative Catalyst applicants must contact Jamie Dunlap (jadunlap@pa.gov or (717) 525-5542) before applying.
- Pennsylvania Creative Industries staff reviews Creative Catalyst applications based on the areas of assessment outlined above and makes recommendations to the Council—the governing body of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Submission of an application does not guarantee a recommendation or approval. Awards go to applications that demonstrate the highest degree of alignment and advancement of Pennsylvania Creative Industries' areas of opportunity.
- The Council acts on staff recommendations during their [quarterly meetings](#).
- Applicants selected to receive awards will be sent an email outlining the next steps in the grant process.

Need help?

- For grants.pa.gov technical and login questions, contact DCED's eGrants customer service: (800) 379-7448
- For questions about the Creative Catalyst program, contact Jamie Dunlap: jadunlap@pa.gov or (717) 525-5542.