



Funding Spotlight: National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Program

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Session Overview

- The agency
- Program overview
- Application
- Review criteria
- Resources
- Takeaways
- Q&A

Defining the humanities - NEH

"The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life."

National Endowment for the Humanities – Divisions/Offices



- Challenge Programs
- Digital Humanities
- Education
- Federal/State Partnership
- Preservation & Access
- Public Programs
- **Research**

https://www.neh.gov/grants



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Grants

Divisions and Offices

Grants Search

Manage Your Award

NEH's Application Review Process

Professional Development

Grantee Communications Toolkit

NEH Virtual Grant Workshops

Grants

News

Our Work

Humanities Connections

Organizations

Output: Linked Courses, Curriculum, Community Partnerships, Faculty Development, Teaching Resources

Due Date
9/14/21

Dynamic Language Infrastructure – Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships

Individuals

Output: Book, Article, Digital Material and Publication, Translation, Other Scholarly Resource, Dictionary, Grammar Book, Book Section, Archival Documentation

Due Date
9/15/21

Dynamic Language Infrastructure – Documenting Endangered Languages Senior Research Grants

Organizations

Output: Digital Material and Publication, Dictionary, Grammar Book, Book Section, Language Learning Resource, Archival Documentation

Due Date
9/15/21

Summer Stipends

Individuals

Output: Book, Article, Digital Material and Publication, Archaeological Report, Translation, Edition, Other Scholarly Resource

Due Date
9/22/21

https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends

Summer Stipend Program

- Purpose, expected output
- Award amount
- Annual competition
- Limited submission
- Principal investigator as applicant
- NEH area of interest



Program Stats

- \$540,000 available
- Up to 90 awards
- Competition stats
 - 827 applications
 - 9.8% funding rate
 - 81 awards



2018: Andrey V. Ivanov, UW-Platteville. *A Spiritual Revolution: the Reformation and Enlightenment in Orthodox Russia 1700–1825*

Application



- Grants.gov application shell (*nominating official, 2 reference contacts)
- Attachments
 - Narrative
 - Bibliography
 - Resume/CV
 - Appendices (project dependent)

Reference letter writers

- Referees from different institutions (ideal)
- Address proposed activity and applicant ability to undertake it
- Letters submitted within a few weeks after proposal submission



Narrative

- Significance and contribution
- Methodology and work plan
- Competencies, skills, and access
- Final product and dissemination



Review criteria

1. Intellectual significance..., including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. Quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
3. Feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed plan of work.
4. Quality or promise of quality of the applicant as an interpreter of the humanities.
5. Likelihood...applicant will complete the project, including, when relevant, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.

Review criteria applied to the application

GUIDANCE FOR NARRATIVE, BIBLIOGRAPHY, RESUME, and APPENDICES

To ensure that you fully address the review criteria, this table provides a crosswalk between the application components and the review criteria.

<u>Narrative Section</u>	<u>Review Criteria</u>
Significance and contribution	1, 2
Methodology and work plan	2, 3
Competencies, skills, and access	2, 3, 4
Final product and dissemination	5
<u>Application Component</u>	<u>Review Criteria</u>
Bibliography	1
Résumé	4
Appendices (only for editions, translations, database projects and visual materials)	2

Connecting the narrative to the review criteria

Narrative sections

- Significance and contribution
- Methodology and work plan
- Competencies, skills, and access
- Final product and dissemination

Review criteria

1. Intellectual significance..., including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
2. Quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
3. Feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed plan of work.
4. Quality or promise of quality of the applicant as an interpreter of the humanities.
5. Likelihood...applicant will complete the project (not necessarily during the period of performance), including, when relevant, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.

Sample proposal (review criteria 1, 2)

Judith Giesberg: Northern Women, Work, and the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1867

Significance and contribution

- ✓ “The dramatic appeal of personal stories like Derry's make this project a particularly good fit for the National Endowment for the Humanities' ‘We the People Initiative....’ The principal goal of this project is to understand how the war was fought in the spaces of everyday life, where women like Mrs. Derry worked to affect its outcome abroad and to give it meaning at home.”
- ✓ “This project will advance our understanding of the Civil War in two ways. **First**, it will reach deep into northern society to uncover the lives of a broader spectrum of women than have previous studies. **Second**, “Northern Women, Work, and the U.S. Civil War” moves beyond a regional divide among historians that has resulted in the mistaken assumption that only middle-class white women engaged in politics in the north and that the politics of the streets -- disruptive behavior and wartime protest-- was unique to southern women, both black and white.”
- ✓ This project seeks answers to a number of questions about how the war influenced gender relations and public policy in the North, chiefly: **(1)** When and where did women compel wartime communities to confront social questions the war had raised? **(2)** What were the consequences --cultural and political-- of women taking their concerns to government offices and to the streets? **(3)** And finally, how did women's street politics compel northerners to consider the consequences of waging a war in which battlefield and home-front became one?

Sample proposal (review criteria 2, 3)

Judith Giesberg: Northern Women, Work, and the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1867

Methodology and work plan

- ✓ “Diverse secondary works form the theoretical basis for this study of the U.S. Civil War....[she outlines the authors/perspectives and how they inform her work]. “These studies--many of them borrowed from anthropology--have helped me to identify the primary source materials for this project.”
- ✓ “My archival work is nearly complete, and the findings support the chapters as described below.”
- ✓ Applicant outlines all five chapters, themes and perspectives, and noting source materials in support of her approach. “‘Northern Women’ is organized into five chapters, three of which are completed.... I shall complete the writing of Chapter Two in summer 2006.... I shall complete the research and writing of Chapter Five in summer 2006.... With NEH funding, I shall complete the two remaining chapters and submit the entire manuscript to the press by September 2006.”

Sample proposal (review criteria 2, 3, 4)

Judith Giesberg: Northern Women, Work, and the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1867

Competencies, skill, and access

- ✓ “As I did in my first book— ‘Civil War Sisterhood: The United States Sanitary Commission and Women's Reform in Transition’—I explore the connections between women at home and men at the front and seek to understand how women understood their responsibilities to their families, communities, and their nation during wartime.”
- ✓ Applicant identifies the primary and secondary source materials she's already collected and consumed (personal letters, organizations' records, applications, admissions records) and where they are housed. “My archival work is nearly complete, and the findings support the chapters as described below.”

Sample proposal (review criterion 5)

Judith Giesberg: Northern Women, Work, and the U.S. Civil War, 1861-1867

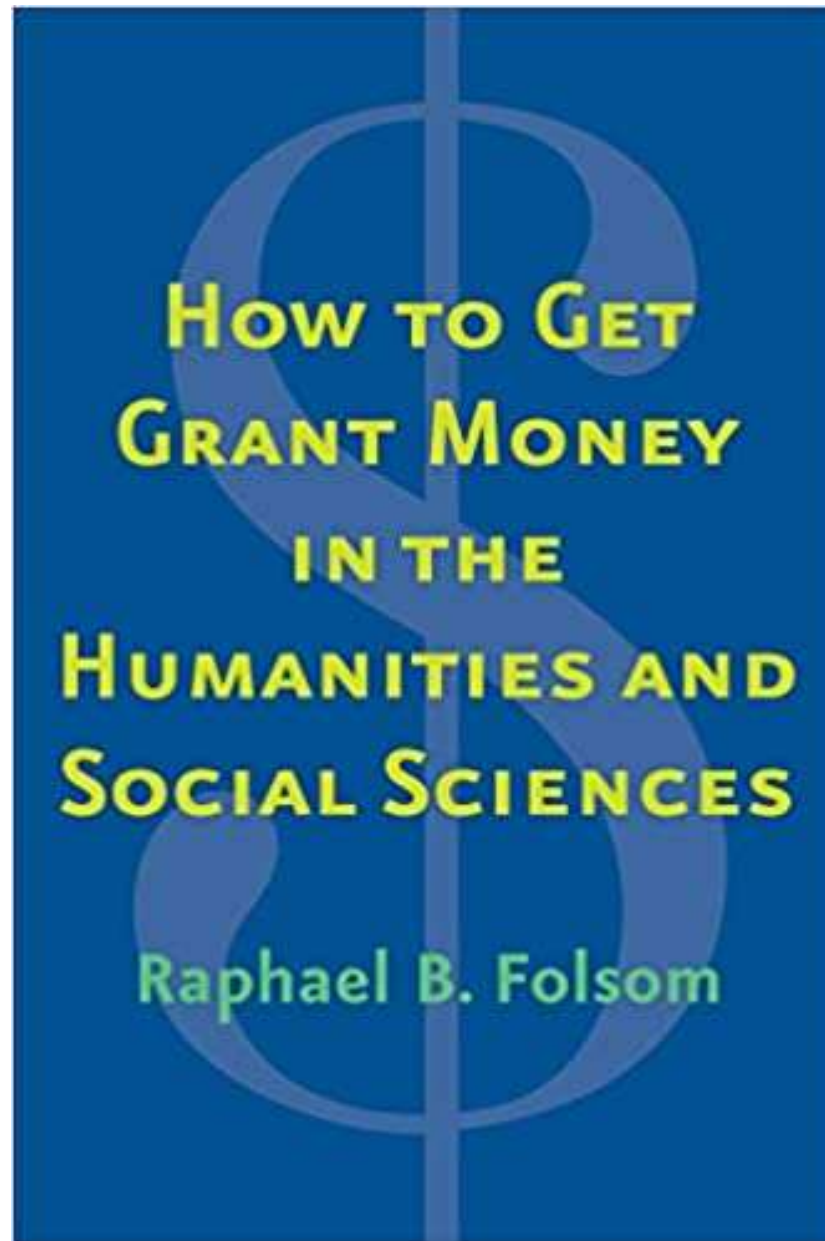
Final product and dissemination

- ✓ “Chapters One, Three, and Four are currently in draft and under consideration at the University of North Carolina Press, where an editor solicited the manuscript and has given the chapters a favorable review.”
- ✓ “‘Northern Women’ will be a scholarly work, but I shall make it accessible and interesting for students and enthusiasts by minimizing academic jargon and maximizing the drama of individual women's stories...”
- ✓ Applicant catalogs several academic and public programming venues she will engage with in order to widely disseminate the work to a wide variety of audiences (conferences, museums, statewide public events commemorating the anniversary of the Civil War). These public outreach activities make this project an appropriate candidate for funding through the "We the People Initiative."

NEH Resources

- NEH-hosted webinar, April 14, 1:00 – 2:00 CT
(<https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends>)
- NEH YouTube video on application writing tips (24mins)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21WOKZQGH0s>)
- Sample application narratives
(<https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends>)





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Part I Principles

1 Prepare for a Competitive Process 9

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7 Know Your Theory 51

8 Identify Grant Makers 58

9 Lock Down Those Criteria 60

Part III Process

10 Preparation Strategies: An Overview 67

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12 Create a First Draft 72

13 Solicit Honest, Helpful Feedback 86

Author: Raphael B. Folsom, Associate Professor of History, University of Oklahoma
Publication: Yale UP, 2019

Session Takeaways

- Limited submission
- Annual competition
- Utilize all available informational resources
- Start early and engage in peer review/feedback

Questions?



Webinar topic ideas?

- 
- ✓ **Post-event survey**
 - ✓ **Email your topic ideas:**
 - dlundin@wisys.org
 - gpjahn@wisys.org