



Program Description

The Arts Accessibility Grant-Improvement Projects is an invitational grant program designed to provide non-matching funds to improve access to art organization's existing programs or facility for patrons with disabilities.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Purchase and staff training of accessibility equipment
- Improvements to existing facilities or infrastructure meant to enhance access
- Professional development for staff and artists on how to improve the accessibility of your organization's existing programs
- Contact NAC staff if you have an accessibility project that does not fall into one of the above areas of funding

Note: Arts programming projects designed for persons with disabilities are not included in this category. The intent for the AAG-Improvement Project Grant is for adaptations that improve access to existing buildings and programs. Applicants for arts programming projects may apply in the Arts Project, Arts Learning Project, or Mini Grant category.

Organizations are encouraged to think critically and strategically about proposed projects and consider the following to facilitate the development of the project in cooperation with your staff and board:

- Define the challenges the organization is confronting with regard to providing access to patrons with disabilities.
- Review your [504 Access plan](#), if you have one, to identify accessibility goals.
- Examine facility and access services to determine a feasible project that can be accomplished and sustained beyond the grant period.

Eligibility

Nonprofit arts organizations incorporated in Nebraska that are federally tax-exempt. (No schools, colleges, public agencies, subdivisions of government agencies, or religious organizations.) Basic Support Grant (BSG) and Annual Series and Events (ASE) grantees are eligible.

How to Apply

To be eligible to apply for the AAG-Improvement Project grant, organizations must first email a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** to linda.hilliar@nebraska.gov.

After review and approval of the LOI, organizations will receive an invitation to apply.

Deadline

LOIs must be received at least 12 weeks before the proposed project start date, and must include the following:

- **Description of the proposed project** and how it will address your organization's accessibility goals.
- **Budget estimate** describing the expenses for your project.

After organizations have been invited to apply, the application will be due 8 weeks prior to the proposed start date.

Note: While funds are available, applications will be reviewed in the order received.



Grant Amounts

An organization may submit one application per year requesting up to \$5,000.

Applicants do not need to provide a cash match.

Each application is unique and the parameters of the grant payment and reporting process will be outlined in the grant award letter.

Resources

Audio Describers

Outlook Nebraska offers consultation around establishing audio description services for the blind and visually impaired for live events and theatre, training of audio describers, and coordination of audio description services with theatres. For more information on adapting for people who are blind and visually impaired, contact Lisa Kelly, Director of Enrichment Programs, at LKelly@outlookne.org, 531-365-5328. For more information about audio description services in general see the [American Council of the Blind Audio Description Project](#) and Outlook Nebraska, <https://outlookne.org/enrichment/live-performances/>

Professional Development

WhyArts can help you evaluate, plan, and improve ways in which your organization provides access for persons with disabilities. Reach out to Carolyn Anderson, Executive Director, at carolyn.o.anderson@gmail.com, to start the conversation.

<https://www.whyyartsinc.org/>

NAC Accessibility Specialist

The Arts Council has a 504 Coordinator (Arts Accessibility Specialist) who can answer your questions about specific outreach and services. Please contact:

Robin Richards

(402) 595-3934

robin.richards@nebraska.gov

For additional resources about arts accessibility, please visit the NAC website: <http://www.artscouncil.nebraska.gov>