



## **State of Ohio CARES Act Funding via the Ohio Arts Council**

### ***Frequently Asked Questions (as of October 29, 2020)***

#### **Q1. Can my organization be reimbursed for lost income it was unable to earn due to the pandemic?**

A: No – it may only be reimbursed for the expenses it incurred despite that lost income.

*Example – your organization typically holds an event in the spring that raises \$10,000 in income. With that income, it then offers summer classes that cost \$5,000 in contractor fees and \$1,000 in supplies. This year the spring event was cancelled, and the classes were offered virtually, costing only \$4,000. The CARES Act cannot reimburse your organization for the \$10,000 it did not earn, but it can reimburse it for the \$4,000 it nonetheless spent.*

#### **Q2: How soon after completing the worksheet will I know if my organization will receive CARES Act dollars?**

A: Grantees will be notified of awards no later than the end of November and will receive funding in early December (provided that a grantee accepts its award promptly in the ARTIE system).

#### **Q3: Our organization has applied (or is in the process of applying for) additional CARES Act funding via another source (city, county, etc.), and we do not know how much we might receive. How much should we enter in the sections of the worksheet that ask about prior CARES Act support, and can we make changes if our total changes in the coming weeks?**

A: This may depend on your individual circumstances. Organizations may choose to back out the maximum amount of funding they might receive from other sources as they complete their worksheet for the OAC, if they know this maximum, guaranteeing that an award received via the OAC could be used in its entirety with no further changes. Or, if time allows, they could wait to complete other application processes until such time as they have received a total from the OAC. If both processes must proceed simultaneously, and it becomes necessary for an organization to turn back all or a portion of an OAC award because additional CARES Act funding has been received between the time the worksheet was completed and the time an award is announced, they should contact us directly to ensure we can make award adjustments before a Grant Agreement is signed and processed.

#### **Q4: Will my organization need to share receipts and other documentation with the OAC before it can receive funds?**

A: No, but the OAC does expect to begin collecting documentation in early 2021 well in advance of any potential audit. Regardless of what your organization eventually sends to the

OAC, you should also retain your own documentation for five years following the grant to comply with federal regulations.

**Q5: Will a Final Report be required in ARTIE following receipt of CARES Act funds?**

A: Grantees will be asked to complete a short Final Report in early 2021 confirming how funds were spent and providing documentation that confirms that expenses were eligible. Details will be provided to grantees after awards are announced.

**Q6: If I plan to use my OAC FY 2021 grant in part to cover staff salaries this fall/winter, can I also use CARES Act money to cover salaries? What if I used part of my OAC FY 2020 grant last spring?**

Funds from both sources can be used to cover salaries broadly, provided they do not overlap. CARES Act dollars cannot be used to fund the exact expenses already covered using OAC monies from either your FY 2020 or FY 2021 award, whether that full award has been received or (in the case of FY 2021) not yet received in full.

*Example – Elijah earned \$20,000 between March 1 and October 15. He will earn an anticipated additional \$3,000 between October 16 and December 30, for a total of \$23,000. OAC Sustainability dollars contributed \$5,000 to Elijah’s salary. The Reopening and Economic Relief Worksheet should then list \$18,000 as potentially reimbursable through CARES Act funds through the OAC.*

**Q7: Is it permissible for my organization to list losses for items we had in our budget as of March 1, such as rent, utilities, salaries, or other operating expenses?**

A: Yes, this is permissible, provided they are permissible expenses as described in the worksheet and guidance.

**Q8: Will the OAC restrict my ability to spend CARES Act funding to the categories of expenses as listed on the Worksheet, or will I be free to decide later how to expend funds within those categories?**

No, awards will not be further restricted in this manner. Worksheet totals will be used only in determining overall award amounts.

**Q9: What if our organization submits the Worksheet but then needs to make changes, or has already submitted more than one worksheet?**

Please contact the OAC directly at [OrgPrograms@oac.ohio.gov](mailto:OrgPrograms@oac.ohio.gov) so that we can confirm which figures are correct.

**Q10: My organization previously received Payroll Protection Program (PPP) dollars from the CARES Act. Is it eligible to receive CARES Act funding through the OAC?**

Yes, it is still eligible for CARES Act funding being awarded through the Ohio Arts Council. However, you will be asked through the worksheet to deduct any PPP dollars that you have received from the federal government, as you cannot “double dip” and be funded twice by the CARES Act for the same expenses.

**Q11: I'm an individual artist. Am I eligible to receive CARES Act dollars through this funding?**

No, individual artists are not eligible for these federal CARES Act dollars. Individual artists will continue to be supported through the OAC's existing programs which utilize state-source dollars. The state has announced other economic relief programs for individuals through the Home Relief Grant. Starting November 2, 2020, the state of Ohio, working with local Community Action Agencies, will help eligible Ohioans who are behind on rent, mortgage, and water and/or sewer utility bills catch up on past payments back to April 1, 2020 and provide additional assistance through December 30, 2020. [Click here for more information on how to apply.](#)

**Q12: Are for-profit arts and cultural organizations eligible to receive CARES Act dollars through this funding?**

No, for-profit arts groups are not eligible for these federal CARES Act dollars. However, the state has announced other economic relief programs for small businesses and liquor permit holders (e.g., bars, restaurants, for-profit arts venues with a liquor license). Local governments may also be offering relief in this space. These programs are administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency:

The Small Business Relief Grant is designed to provide relief to Ohio businesses that have been negatively affected by COVID-19. Governor Mike DeWine has designated up to \$125 million of funding received by the State of Ohio from the federal CARES Act to provide \$10,000 grants to small businesses to help them through the current crisis. The program, which will begin accepting applications November 2, 2020, will be administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency. [Click here for more information on how to apply.](#)

The Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund is designed to assist Ohio's on-premises liquor permit holders. Governor Mike DeWine has designated \$37.5 million of funding received by the State of Ohio from the federal CARES Act to provide \$2,500 assistance payments to on-premise liquor permit holders to help them through the financial difficulties experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. These permit holders have not been able to fully use their liquor permit and it's had an impact on their business. The program, which will begin accepting applications November 2, 2020, will be administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency. [Click here for more information on how to apply.](#)

**Q13: How much funding am I allowed to request from the CARES Act?**

A: Organizations seeking funding do not specify a request. Instead, the Reopening and Economic Relief Worksheet asks for each organization's needs in a variety of categories that can be reimbursed with CARES Act funding. Based on overall need, grant awards will then be determined using a formula.

**Q14: My organization is not a current operating support grantee (in Sustainability, Arts Access, or SASO). May we complete the worksheet to receive CARES Act funding?**

A: Nonprofit arts providers in Ohio not currently receiving operating support through these programs are welcome to complete the worksheet and describe their need. In doing so, please choose “None of these” when prompted to describe your current OAC operating support program. The OAC will make every effort to meet other eligible organizations’ needs through non-CARES Act funding.

**Q15: Why is funding only being provided to OAC operating support grantees, when other arts organizations were affected by the pandemic as well?**

The OAC recognizes that the need in the arts community extends beyond OAC grantees in any given program; even the substantial support provided via these CARES Act funds is unlikely to fully offset the effects of the pandemic for most organizations. The decision to focus on operating support grantees was made in conjunction with our authorizers at the state level to ensure both that this support could be distributed rapidly and efficiently, and be successfully managed to comply with various hurdles associated with federal awards (especially extensive audit requirements). As stewards of tax dollars those were critical considerations, in addition to the fact that these organizations were vetted by public panels for multi-year awards and by our board through prior approval processes. We remain hopeful that other resources, whether state or federal, may become available to other arts providers in the near future. Regular OAC funding continues to be available on previously announced application deadline and funding schedules, some of which may address other organizations’ needs. Details are available at [oac.ohio.gov/grants](http://oac.ohio.gov/grants).

**Q16: My organization does both arts and non-arts programming. Can CARES Act funds awarded via the OAC be used only for our expenses related to arts work, or can non-arts work be included?**

A: Organizations eligible for CARES Act funding according to the guidance provided can use funds for both the arts and non-arts portions of their business, provided they abide by the other restrictions articulated in discussion of eligible expenses. No additional screen for different types of arts or non-arts activities is necessary.

**Q17: Do the OAC’s usual funding restrictions, as enumerated in its grantmaking Guidelines, apply to CARES Act funding? (For example, no capital expenditures over \$1,000, no payments that reduce debt, no payments for activities classified as fundraisers, etc.)**

A: CARES Act funds come with their own restrictions, and do not constitute a new OAC grantmaking program per se, and as such are not constrained by funding restrictions specific to OAC funding programs articulated in its normal grantmaking Guidelines documents.