



FY27 General Operating Grants

July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027

Guidelines and Organizational Eligibility

Allegany Arts Council (AAC) General Operating Grants (GOG) are made possible through the County Arts Development program of the Maryland State Arts Council, a division of the Maryland Department of Commerce. This is a state/local partnership whereby the Allegany Arts Council receives funds from the Maryland State Arts Council and awards grants to local, non-profit organizations.

As you complete your grant application, please keep in mind that the information and presentation of this application are the only context the review panel may have to rate your organization for grant funding. Please ensure that your answers and descriptions are detailed and specific and address the information requested. In addition, please take care that the neatness and formatting of the application also adequately reflect pride in your organization. **Organizations that do not fully complete the form or provide documentation in lieu of completing the form will be disqualified.**

Please also be advised that this grant process is a competitive application process. There is high demand for these funding dollars, and not all applications will be funded. Funding decisions and award values are based on available grant funds as well as cumulative criteria ratings received from the grant review panel. The maximum amount of GOG funding that shall be awarded to any single organization in a given fiscal year is \$3,500.

Eligibility Requirements for Grantee Organizations

1. Grantees must be non-profit (or eligible for IRS tax-exempt status) and based in Allegany County, with programming and business conducted in Allegany County.
2. By-laws must provide that assets do not accrue to any director, officer, or member of the organization.
3. Programs and events funded with GOG money must be open to the general public.
4. GOG funds must be used for arts-related programming or general organizational operations, as well as capital improvements that facilitate programming. GOG funds may not be used for fundraising events or social functions. Note that this is an Allegany Arts Council policy and that the Maryland State Arts Council does not match capital improvement.
5. Programs that proselytize for specific political actions or religious beliefs are not eligible for funding.
6. To stimulate rather than replace community support, a 1:1 cash match is required (i.e., GOG grant funding may not exceed 1/2 of the proposed program budget). Funds from the Maryland State Arts Council are not allowed as part of this match. In-kind or donated services are similarly ineligible to be included in the match, although they should be identified on the application.
7. Grantees must notify AAC of any major change in the program or event as described in the grant application. In the event of cancellation or dissolution of the organization, grant funds must be returned.

8. Grantees must comply with Title VI, Section 601, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination related to, the arts.
9. Grantees must comply with Title IV, Section 1681, of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 6101, which prohibit discrimination based on sex or age.
10. Grantees must comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which states no otherwise qualified person shall, solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination related to the arts.
11. Grantees must supply the AAC with two (2) complimentary tickets to any grant-funded programs.
12. Grantees must include the phrase "Sponsored in part by the Allegany Arts Council with funds from the Maryland State Arts Council" whenever and wherever program credit is being given. Similarly, grantees should always strive to inform, inspire, and educate the local community with regard to their arts-related programming.