



Creative Learning Grants for Schools

**FY2027 Grant Webinar
Welcome!**



Creative Learning Grants for Schools

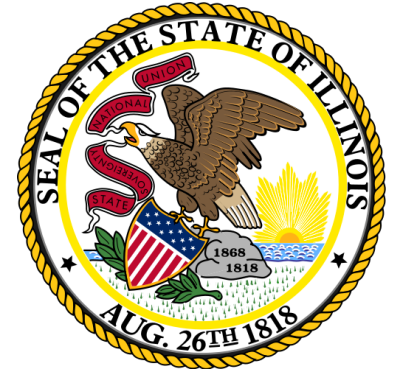
FY2027 Grant Webinar

- Illinois Arts Council
- Eligibility
- CLGS Grant Overview
- Application Process
- Using Salesforce
- Process, Notification & Compliance
- Ways to Connect with IAC staff

Illinois **ARTS** Council

1965

The agency is governed by The Council--
up to twenty-one private citizens chosen
for their demonstrated commitment to
the arts and appointed by the Governor.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
 arts.gov



Mission

To build a strong, creative, and connected Illinois through the arts



Creative Learning Grants for Schools

FY27 Grant

Goal: help schools acquire supplies, materials, equipment, or services from Illinois artists or arts organizations, that are needed to address student needs for arts learning opportunities.

- Grants of up to \$20,000-divided regionally
- For this grant program the arts include dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts

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Key Dates

Applications are due by Wednesday,
February 18, 2026, at 11:59pm

Grant period begins on September 1, 2026,
and runs through August 31, 2027

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Overview: Eligibility

Eligible:

- **Public** K-12 school districts, schools, and charter schools.

Ineligible:

- FY26 Creative Learning Grants for Schools Grantees that received funding for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Private Schools
- Organizations that wish to work with schools

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Overview: Restrictions

- Applicants may only submit one application per fiscal year.
- Organizations with which IAC Board members are affiliated are eligible to apply.
- Schools within a district, and the district, may both apply, but it must be for separate arts learning opportunities.

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Additional Overview

- Apply utilizing a Salesforce account registered to the organizational applicant
- Submit all materials by the deadline
- May not submit more than 1 application
- Have a valid FEIN and UEI number
- Be pre-qualified in GATA (If you receive IBSE funds, you should already have this)
- This grant requires an in-school educator, or administrator, to oversee the work.

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Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA)

<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>

GATA Goals:

- Remove duplicative processes
- Increase accountability and transparency

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Grant Accountability & Transparency Act (GATA)

- Fiscal Year End Date
- Organization type
- Illinois Secretary of State File Number
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
- SAM.gov active registration
 - UEI number

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GATA

- Required
- Maintain compliance
- Meet expectations
- Responsibly manage funds
- Effective Communication

PRE-QUALIFICATION INFORMATION	
SAM.gov Account:	Good until 2/23/2025
Federal Employer ID (FEIN):	Good
Federal Excluded Parties List:	Good
Federal Delinquent Debt:	Good
Illinois Secretary of State:	Good
Illinois Stop Payment List:	Good
Illinois DHFS Sanction List:	Good

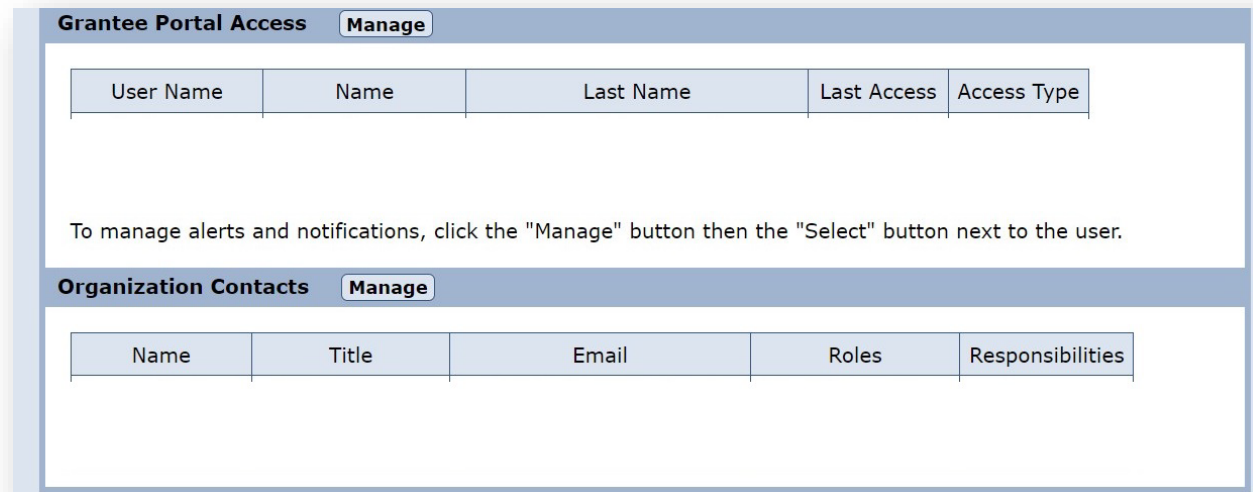
Grantee must be in qualified status by 30-days after the application deadline.

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GATA

Other GATA Grantee Portal Tips

- Maintain current and accurate contact list
- Ensure fiscal year end date is accurate



The screenshot displays a web interface for managing grantee information. It features two main sections: 'Grantee Portal Access' and 'Organization Contacts', each with a 'Manage' button. The 'Grantee Portal Access' section includes a table with columns for User Name, Name, Last Name, Last Access, and Access Type. Below this table is a text instruction: 'To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.' The 'Organization Contacts' section includes a table with columns for Name, Title, Email, Roles, and Responsibilities.

User Name	Name	Last Name	Last Access	Access Type
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To manage alerts and notifications, click the "Manage" button then the "Select" button next to the user.

Name	Title	Email	Roles	Responsibilities
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Overview : Allowable Expenses

- General administrative expenses directly related to the arts learning opportunity, including staff salaries (no more than 15 percent of the grant award)
- Technology, equipment, supplies, and materials directly related to arts learning opportunity
- Field trips (e.g., transportation, admission charges) that supports established arts education curriculum
- Contracts with Illinois artists, and arts organizations, to provide resources for the arts learning opportunity

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Overview : Unallowable Expenses

- Fundraising activities
- Expenses for outside organizations or individuals and/or short-term projects that are not connected to the arts learning opportunity
- College or university tuition
- Unreasonable travel requests
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages
- Political activities such as contributions, lobbying, or fundraisers

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Review Criteria

The review of CLGS applications is based on successful evidence of the answers to the following application requirements:

1. The arts learning opportunity is clearly planned and supports the students' arts education curriculum. (30 points)
2. There is a demonstrated need for this funding to accomplish this opportunity due to a current barrier. (30 points)
3. There are meaningful outcomes expected from this opportunity. (20 points)
4. There is an identified lead in-school educator with school, or district, support for this opportunity. (10 points)
5. Budget is cost effective use of funding. (10 points)

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How to Apply: Guidelines

Full guidelines are available at the Illinois Arts Council website and via the salesforce portal.

All applications must be submitted via the applicant's IAC Salesforce account at <https://arts-illinois.my.site.com/>

Applications are due by Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 11:59pm.

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How to Apply: Starting in Salesforce

- Log-in, or Create a Log-in, in Salesforce

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How to Apply: Application Overview

1. Applicant Information
2. Grant Programs Selection
3. Application Narrative
4. Budget
5. Submit / Certification

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How to Apply: Applicant Information

- Contact Information
- Year Founded
- Organization Mission
- Primary Discipline Selection
- Staff & Board Overall Demographics
- UEI / FEIN Numbers

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How to Apply: Grant Program Selection

- “Creative Learning Grant for Schools-2027”
- Applicant Information tab updated confirmation
- Type of school or district
- In-school Contact Name, Title, Email, Phone
- Grant Notification Official Name
- Grade levels to be served by this opportunity
- Number of students to be served by this opportunity
- Requested Amount
- Brief Request Summary

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Application Narrative

The narrative is limited to three pages and must address the following:

Arts Learning Opportunity:

- Describe the arts learning opportunity that will be supported by your grant request.
- Who are the students that will be served by this opportunity?
- How does this opportunity currently support students' arts education curriculum? This curriculum may include activities that take place before, during, or after school.
- What is the timeline for the implementation of this arts learning opportunity, and who is responsible for the required tasks?

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Application Narrative (Continued)

Need:

- What is the expense for this arts learning opportunity?
- What is the barrier preventing this work from happening without this grant?

Outcome

- Describe the expected outcome(s) for students. This may include engagement, academics, and/or social-emotional learning (SEL) that may result from this arts learning opportunity.

School / District:

- How will the lead educator, or administrator, oversee the work and how are they supported by the school/district?

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Financials (Budget)

Only include financials for the proposed IAC-funded expenses.
\$20,000 Limit.

- Supplies / materials (consumable during the span of the arts learning opportunity)
- Equipment (longer lifespan beyond the arts learning opportunity)
- Contractual services (payments to artists or arts organizations for the arts learning opportunity)
- General administrative expenses (up to 15%)

Total Request: *(Will Self-Calculate)*

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Certification/ Submit

Once the application is complete click the Submit Button in the lower left-hand corner. A pop-up will require certification of eligibility and application content.

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How to Apply: Using Salesforce

Salesforce Top Tips / FAQs:

- Use Google Chrome
- Use PC or Desktop to complete applications
- Ensure you are logged into correct account
- Use universal grants email account for Salesforce account
- Contact IAC if you cannot access your account

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How to Apply: Using Salesforce

Salesforce Live Demo

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Review Process

- Salesforce grant portal will issue an application number
- Ineligible or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Reviews are based on the established criteria
- Final recommendations are presented to the board for their consideration and approval.
- Applicants may reach out for review feedback

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Notification

- All applicants will be notified via email.
- Some email systems direct our notifications to spam. Please mark the following emails as safe in your email system:
 - no-reply@webmerge.me
 - InsureSign@send.insuresign.com
- Grants cannot be processed for payment until all requirements have been met.
- State Comptroller's office processes all payments

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Compliance

Final Report(s) Due: September 30, 2027

The IAC grants office will notify grantees when reports have opened in the Salesforce grant portal.

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Crediting Requirement

Grant recipients must credit the IAC in all promotional material and public notices in the following manner:

“<YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME> acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.”

For further information regarding usage of the logo and to download a copy, go to the logo page of the IAC website.

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Summary and Reminders

The application closes on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 11:59pm.

All applicants will be notified by **email** of funding decisions.

For awards to be processed all grant acceptance documents must be submitted to the IAC Grants Office **via the IAC Salesforce grant portal**.

State Comptroller **payments can take two to six months**.

All CLGS awardees will be **required to complete and submit a final report** no later than September 30, 2027.

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Drop-in sessions

IAC staff will host one hour drop-in sessions for further discussion and to answer questions during the application process. You do not need register in advance to participate.

Monday, January 12 at 3:00pm

Thursday, January 22 at Noon

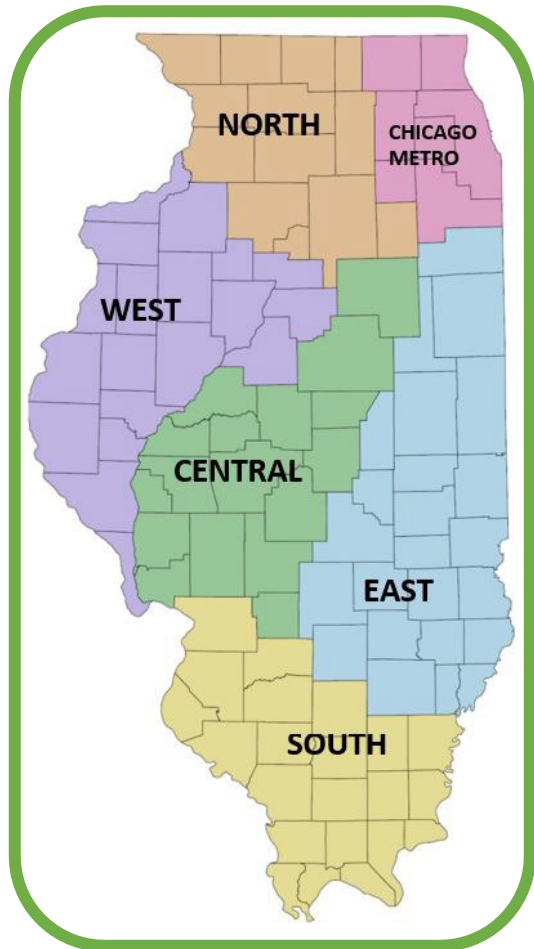
Tuesday, February 3 at 4:00pm

Wednesday, February 11 16 at 10:00am

Links available under the Workshops & Webinars page arts.illinois.gov

Illinois Arts Council

Regional Program Directors



Susan Dickson, Eastern Region

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Danielle Heal, Northern Region

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Illinois Arts Council

Program Team

IAC's Program Director finder tool:

<https://arts.illinois.gov/about-iac/staff/grant-staff-locator.htm>

- Angelique Grandone, Angelique.Grandone@illinois.gov
- Danielle Heal, Danielle.Heal@illinois.gov
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- Susan Dickson, Susan.Dickson@illinois.gov
- Jasmine Roberson, Program Representative / Salesforce Assistance
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Thank you!