

# GKV Foundation Fund for BERKSHIRE COUNTY THEATER PROFESSIONALS

## Program Description

Through a partnership with the GKV Charitable Foundation, this fund is designed to assist theater professionals who live in Berkshire County who have lost income as a direct result of COVID-19 related cancellations and closures.

Mass Cultural Council will administer these charitable funds as directed by the GKV Charitable Foundation. We anticipate making a total of thirty \$1,000 awards to Berkshire County theater professionals. There are nine Berkshire County theater professionals who unsuccessfully applied to our [COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals](#); they will receive the first nine awards funded by the GKV Foundation. The remaining 21 recipients will be selected randomly from a pool of new applicants.

**Grant Application Opens on May 20, 2020.**

## Program Guidelines

### Eligibility

You may apply for GKV Foundation funding if you are **an individual Theater Professional**.

- Individual Theater Professionals include theater artists who work on stage, such as performers and musicians, as well as those who work on productions such as directors, designers, stage managers, choreographers, stagehands, writers, and professionals who work on production elements, such as sets, props, lighting, effects, sound, make-up, and costumes.

**AND** you meet all five of the following requirements:

- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You are a legal resident of Berkshire County in Massachusetts. We define "legal resident" as someone who meets the definition of a "full-year resident" in the Massachusetts tax code. Visit the [Mass Department of Revenue website](#) to learn more.
- You have reported taxable income related to earnings working as an individual theater professional.
- The income you reported earning as an individual theater professional in your most recent tax return represented more than 25% of your total income from all sources.

- You can demonstrate at least \$1,000 of lost income directly related to COVID-19 that is not eligible to be recouped through Massachusetts State unemployment benefits from:
  - canceled jobs/gigs, performances, productions, shows, or theater residencies
  - closures or suspended operations of theater or venues.

Receiving federal CARES Act unemployment benefits, for contract employees and gig workers, does not affect eligibility for this funding.

Theater Professionals who meet the requirements above but did not receive funding from Mass Cultural Council's COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals are encouraged to submit a new application to this fund.

**Recipients of the Mass Cultural Council FY20 COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals are NOT eligible for the funding.**

## Use of Funds

The use of grant funds is unrestricted. The funds are provided as financial assistance to offset the loss of income demonstrated in the application.

## Grant Awards, Review and Distribution of Funds

Applicants may submit one application and may receive no more than one grant award for this funding opportunity.

Applications are reviewed to ensure that applicants meet the Berkshire county requirements. Grants of \$1,000 will be awarded to 21 eligible applicants using a randomized selection process, much like a lottery.

Berkshire County includes the following cities/towns:

- |                    |                   |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Adams            | • Lanesborough    | • Pittsfield       |
| • Alford           | • Lee             | • Richmond         |
| • Becket           | • Lenox           | • Sandisfield      |
| • Cheshire         | • Monterey        | • Savoy            |
| • Clarksburg       | • Mt. Washington  | • Sheffield        |
| • Dalton           | • New Ashford     | • Stockbridge      |
| • Egremont         | • New Marlborough | • Tyringham        |
| • Florida          | • North Adams     | • Washington       |
| • Great Barrington | • Otis            | • West Stockbridge |
| • Hancock          | • Peru            | • Williamstown     |
| • Hinsdale         |                   | • Windsor          |

## Grant Payment

To receive the funds awarded through this program,

- Mass Cultural Council mails all necessary documents directly to grantees.
- Grantees must complete and sign the following three documents, then promptly return all signed originals by mail to Mass Cultural Council:
  1. One-page State Contract
  2. Electronic Funds Transfer Form
  3. W-9
- After the grantee returns the signed contract via mail, Mass Cultural Council electronically deposits grant payments to the grantee's account within approximately 20 – 45 days.
  - Grantees who do not have a bank account must notify the Contract Officer at the time of award notification to request a mailed paper check.
  - Every effort is made by Mass Cultural Council to expedite payments as quickly as possible.

*Please be aware.*

- Grants may be considered taxable income for the 2020 tax year. Individuals should seek guidance from their tax professionals/accountants about income tax reporting requirements.
- Additionally, grantees who receive unemployment benefits from the Federal CARES Act programs should seek guidance from the State unemployment office about how the grant will affect those benefits.

## Requirements

To continue our advocacy efforts, we may send optional surveys to grantees to gather additional information to help tell the story about the impact that COVID-19 on of the cultural sector in Berkshire county

At this time, grantees do not have any formal reporting requirements.

## Application Instructions

1. Read the program guidelines.
2. Log in to Mass Cultural Council's [online application](#) using your username and password for your individual profile. Usernames/Passwords previously created by applicants for Artist Fellowships, META Fellowships, or the COVID-19 Relief Fund should be used.

3. Complete and submit the online application before the deadline on May 29, 2020, at 11:59 pm (ET).

### Questions?

If you have questions, contact [Dan Blask](#), Program Officer, Artist Fellowships by [email](#), or at 617-858-2706.

## Timeline

**May 20:** Guidelines available and the application opens

**May 29:** Grant Application closes

**June 2:** Award decisions finalized; Applicants notified via email

**June 9:** Contracts mailed out



*This grant opportunity was created through a collaboration between the GKV Charitable Foundation Inc. and Mass Cultural Council.*