The Field Grant Categories

Field fiscally sponsored artists are eligible to raise money from individuals, corporations, the government, corporate matching gifts and foundations. The Grants List divides foundation grants into four categories: Institutional, Re-grants, Small and Family Foundations and Emergency Grants. This list is only a cross-section of grants commonly applied to by fiscally sponsored artists. There are more out there! Check your monthly Field Member News for grant descriptions, deadlines and other grant opportunities. The Field has two types of sponsorship: Local Harvest/Individual and Deep Roots/Institutional. The type of sponsorship you have impacts what grants you can apply for and what fees you incur. So double check your sponsorship level before you start applying for something.

What is a re-granting organization?
Some arts councils or arts service organizations receive funding from by city or state governments, or private funders to re-distribute or re-grant to individuals or organizations. Often these re-grants are made to artists to develop and create work that serves a particular community or addresses a specific need. While some re-grants are administered by government organizations, others may be given by private entities. Generally, grants awards range from $500 to $5,000. The application process usually requires short written proposals and budgets or an online form in which specific questions must be answered. In order to find re-grants, a good place to start is your local arts council. You should always check the guidelines carefully. Many re-grants require that the work be produced within a certain geographical area or that you are a resident of the community it serves.

What are small and family foundations and how do I find them?
Small and Family foundations are often started by families with a commitment to a particular cause, while others fund a broad range of areas in the non-profit community. Grants amounts range $500 to $5,000 and, generally, the application process is simple. They may require a one- to two-page proposal and a budget. Or, they may require you to send a letter of inquiry before you are invited to submit a full proposal. Others have a specific application form that you need to use. You can research small and family foundations at The Foundation Center or Member News. You should also check the foundation’s grant making activity, noting the application process, grant history, and budget size. This is key information that will help you decide whether or not to apply. For example, if the last grant given was some years before, they may still be listed, but not actively giving grants. They may also only accept submissions at certain times during the year.

What is an emergency grant?
Emergency grants are given by many organizations and are meant to serve an immediate or unforeseen need, arising from a last-minute invitation to present your work, a natural disaster or sudden financial difficulties. Grants range from $500 to $5,000 and can include travel expenses, damage to property or covering a budget shortfall. Applications can often be submitted year-round and have a simple process for applying. There may be an application form or you may be required to submit a one- to two- page proposal with a budget and supporting materials verifying the cost of your request. NYFA Source is a great place to start looking for emergency grants. You should always check the organization’s guidelines to make sure your emergency situation meets the requirements.

What is an institutional funder and how do I know if I am a good fit?
For our purposes, institutional funders are large government or private foundations that make grants of $5,000 or more, have an extensive application process, and typically make grants to artists with larger budgets and a history of presenting work for five years or more. They often require some cultivation before you can apply. When researching institutional funders, you should check their grant-making history and that other artists or companies that have received grants are similar to you in budget size, discipline and mission.
The Field Grants List

Re-granting Organizations
Brooklyn Arts Council
Brooklyn Community Foundation Micro-Grants
Bronx Council on the Arts
Staten Island Arts
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
Queens Council on the Arts
The North Manhattan Arts Alliance

Small and Family Foundations
Aaron Copland Fund for Music
Barbara Deming Memorial Fund
Ella Lyman Cabot Trust
Harkness Foundation
Jim Henson Foundation
Jerome Robbins Foundation
Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Artist Grants
Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
O’Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation
Open Meadows Foundation
Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation
Puffin Foundation
Strong Family Foundation
William H. Kearns Foundation

Emergency Grants
Astrea Lesbian Foundation for Justice Emergency Fund
Dramatist Guild Fund/Emergency Kesselring Grant Foundation for Contemporary Arts’ Emergency Grants
The Actor’s Fund Emergency Financial Assistance

Institutional Funders
American Composers Orchestra
American Music Center - Live Music for Dance
A.R.T./New York Fund for Small Theatres
Chamber Music America
Creative Capital
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
Doris Duke Charitable Trust
Franklin Furnace Fund
Japan Foundation
Jerome Foundation
Jerome Robbins Foundation
Multi-Arts Production Fund (MAP)
Mertz-Gilmore Foundation
Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation
New England Foundation for the Arts
New York Foundation for the Arts BUILD
New York State Council on the Arts
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Taproot Foundation