



FAQs: SPECIAL INITIATIVE CIVICS GRANTS



How much can I apply for in the Major Grant category?

RICH anticipates making major grant awards in the \$5K to \$10K range.

Who can apply?

Eligible organizations include: public, independent, or parochial schools; school districts; regional educational collaboratives; nonprofit organizations (including PTOs, school foundations, and 501(c)3's) whose work provides direct benefit to teachers and students. Rhode Island in-service teachers are eligible to apply for the monthly *Mini Grant for Teachers*.

What are the deadlines?

- Major grant requests will be accepted at all published major grant deadlines.
- Mini grant requests will be accepted on the first of each month. Applications must be submitted online by **5 p.m.** the day of the deadline.

What if a deadline falls on a holiday or weekend?

Deadlines that fall on a holiday or weekend will be postponed to the next business day.

What if I miss the deadline?

All applications must be submitted online by 5pm on the day of the deadline. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

- Late major grant applications will not be accepted.
- Late mini grant applications will be reviewed at the next available deadline, pending availability of funds and project timeline. An application for a project that will incur any costs prior to an award decision will be disqualified. Please plan accordingly.

Must applicants have non-profit status?

Yes, with the exception of the *Mini Grants to Individual Teachers*, applicants must have proof of tax-exempt status, or secure a non-profit to serve as fiscal sponsor.

What if our organization already has an open RICH grant? Are we eligible to apply for a Civics grant?

No, organizations can only have one open grant with RICH at a time.

How can grant funds be used?

Funds can support professional development fees for teachers, e.g., Teacher Institutes, conferences, workshops; travel and accommodations (see restrictions); honoraria for consulting scholars; purchase of supplies and materials; and administrative costs. For a complete listing of eligible expenses, refer to the “Special Initiative Civics RFP” and “Tips for Preparing a Project Budget.” Service Learning applications that do not engage with humanities methods are ineligible.

What are the Humanities?

The humanities are the stories, the ideas, and the words that help us understand our lives and our world. They offer us the opportunity to learn from the past, explore the present, and shape the future. They are about culture, community, and connections. The humanities emphasize the exchange of ideas, critical and imaginative thinking, and the pursuit of wisdom.

In most secondary schools, humanities courses are in literature, history, foreign languages, civics, and social studies. Courses in philosophy, jurisprudence, archaeology, and art history or music history also qualify. Skill-development classes such as reading or writing do not qualify, nor do the performing or visual arts - unless they are components of interdisciplinary courses.

The humanities are sometimes defined as academic disciplines that study the human experience, past and present. They include the study of history; literature, philosophy, and ethics; foreign languages and cultures. They may explore legal, religious, and folk traditions. They also include critical approaches to the arts, science, technology, or politics.

Where can I find more information about the Civics GSEs?

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/instruction/civics.aspx> contains information about the Civics GSEs (legislation, history, FAQs), as well as the K – 12 Civics GSE document (with Glossary and list of Online Resources, and the three grade-span specific documents (K – 4, 5 – 8, 9 – 12) with essential questions and potential topics/links to other GLEs/GSEs.

Where can I find more information about Rhode Island Unit of Study Template?

If your project includes the creation of a unit of study, you will be required to attend a training session on the use of the Rhode Island Unit of Study template, which is currently under development at RIDE. Grantees will receive more detailed information at the time of their award notification.

When will I hear if I my grant application has been approved?

Written notification of the Council's decision will be mailed to applicants to the address provided on the grant application.

- Major grant awards will be announced approximately 8 weeks after the proposal deadline.

- Review of monthly mini grant applications takes four to six weeks. Select deadlines accordingly and plan in advance to ensure project eligibility.

What happens next, if my grant is approved?

Grantees receive an award packet, including a Regrant Agreement that details award terms and conditions. You will have one month upon receipt to sign and return this agreement indicating your acceptance of the award. RICH may withdraw your award if you fail to return required award acceptance documents in a timely fashion.

What if I have more questions?

Our website is a fantastic resource: http://www.rihumanities.org/civics_grants. If you still have questions after reading all the related materials, you may contact RICH Grants Director, SueEllen Kroll at sue@rihumanities.org or by calling (401) 273-2250 x205.