



Kentucky Foundation for Women

Thinking About Eligibility

What you'll find in this document:

[What are the eligibility requirements?](#)

- [Kentucky residency requirement](#)
- [501\(c\)3 requirements - Grants cannot be used for...](#)
- [501\(c\)3 requirements - Ineligible budget items](#)
- [KFW does not fund...](#)

[FAQ about Eligibility](#)

- [Kentucky residency](#)
- [Grant activities timeline](#)
- [For-profit/business organizations](#)
- [Working with out-of-state artists](#)
- [Tuition costs](#)
- [Promotion of religious doctrines](#)
- [Political Campaigns](#)

What are the Eligibility Requirements?

Applications that do not meet KFW eligibility guidelines may not go forward in the review process.

Kentucky residency requirement:

- You must be a Kentucky resident to receive KFW funding.

Because KFW is a private 501(c)3 foundation, grants cannot be used for:

- business enterprises or for-profit organizations*
- promotion of specific religious doctrines*
- participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office* [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

As a 501(c)3 foundation, the following budget items are not eligible for funding:

- tuition costs or living expenses while working toward a degree (or fees for auditing a class)*
- endowment or capital campaigns or renovations of institutional facilities
- **general operating costs for individuals and organizations including:**
 - employee salaries normally paid through the organization
 - rent of any kind including office space, studio rent, and housing
 - utility bills (past due, current, or future)
- **non-art related expenses, including**
 - taxes (past due, current, or future)
 - alcohol for grant-related events

*More information on this can be found in the FAQ included in this document. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

Because KFW focuses on supporting the creation of art by feminists in Kentucky, KFW does not fund:

- applications from artists or organizations that are not residents of Kentucky
 - activities that do not focus on improving the lives of Kentucky women and girls
- [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

Frequently Asked Questions about Eligibility

How does KFW define Kentucky residency?

Because of limited funds for Kentucky artists, KFW focuses on supporting artists and organizations whose primary, permanent residence is in Kentucky at the time of the application and during the period that the grant work is being done. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

When should grant activities begin?

- **Keep in mind that the timeframe for this grant is January through December 2023.**
- Applicants will receive grant notification in early December.

- Applicants who receive funding will receive the grant check by the middle of January.
- Grantees have one year from receiving grant funds to complete the proposed activities.
- **Reviewers do check to see if the activities proposed in your grant application take place within this period. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)**

Where does KFW draw the line on what is considered a “for-profit organization” or a “business enterprise”?

Because of its status as a private foundation under IRS regulations, KFW is prohibited from making grants to “for-profit organizations or business enterprises.” The foundation gives grants to organizations that are non-profit in nature.

KFW does not require that **groups or organizations** have their 501(c)3 status to receive a grant. Whether they have their 501(c)3 status or not, artist groups and non-profit organizations may have earned income (from selling CDs or tickets, for example).

Because of the IRS requirements, KFW is not permitted to fund applications whose primary purpose is making a profit.

For **individuals**, KFW recognizes the need for artists to earn a living and allows the use of grant funds for creating a CD to sell or to produce marketing materials, for instance. In recent years, the line between for-profit and not-for-profit has become blurred and contested. Some artists frequently engage in a mixture of for-profit and not-for-profit activities as they strive to make a living.

Within these complexities, for KFW purposes, **reviewers are asked to weigh whether the main purpose of the Artist Enrichment grant application is to further the individual applicant’s artistic development as a feminist social change artist. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)**

May I apply for a grant to work with an out-of-state artist?

Yes. However, **be sure to explain clearly how that artist’s involvement will further your development as a feminist social change artist** (for Artist Enrichment) and/ or how that artist’s involvement will benefit women and/or girls in Kentucky (for Art Meets Activism).

KFW rarely supports the full cost of an out-of-state artist. Your application and budget should reflect how bringing in an artist from out of state will further your goals as a social change artist or organization. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

What does KFW mean by “tuition costs”?

Again, under IRS regulation, because KFW is not primarily a scholarship-granting organization, the foundation is prohibited from making grants to pursue a degree or courses from an accredited school, college, or university, including fees for auditing a class.

Staff understanding of what constitutes “tuition” is based on the Council on Foundation’s definition, “tuition applies to students who will be attending ‘educational institutions.’” According to the Council on Foundations, this means schools, colleges, or universities.

KFW past practice has also been not to cover living expenses for students working on a master's thesis or dissertation.

Students can, however, receive grants if they use the funds for workshops, residencies, or any other training programs **if the program is not associated with an academic institution**, or if they will use grant funds for **activities (including artist fees) that are not related to the degree they are pursuing**.

Likewise, artists who are not students can use grant funds for workshops, residencies, training programs, etc. if the program is not associated with an academic institution.

As a private foundation, KFW must make these distinctions because scholarship and tuition-granting foundations operate under different IRS regulations. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

What does KFW mean by “promotion of specific religious doctrines”?

KFW staff, Board and reviewers recognize the importance of religious faith to inspire and sustain feminism, art, and social change.

Applicants whose artwork and community engagement are informed by their personal religious beliefs may choose to discuss these beliefs in their application or work sample description.

KFW is committed to respect for all religious faiths. However, the foundation does not support grant-funded activities focused on promoting and advancing any one specific set of religious views or doctrines to the exclusion of other beliefs.

So, for example, while an artist may state her personal commitment to a specific set of religious beliefs as they relate to her understanding of feminism and social change, **KFW funded activities should not focus on persuading others to accept her personal beliefs.**

[\[Return to Menu\]](#)

What is meant by “participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office?”

For more detailed guidelines on this restriction, visit <https://www.irs.gov/charitable-organizations/the-restriction-of-political-campaign-intervention-by-section-501c3-tax-exempt-organizations>. [\[Return to Menu\]](#)

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