



FY27 GUIDELINES ARTIST EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

We understand that the online application system may present a barrier to some applicants and will make reasonable efforts to accommodate specific needs on a case-by-case basis. This information can be made available in the following alternative formats: Braille, large print, and audio recording. We can also help find a language interpreter to translate these guidelines.

To accommodate your requests, the Central MN Arts Board will need at least 10 working days.

We recommend using Chrome or Firefox as your web browser to complete the online application.

MN Relay Service 1-800-627-3529

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320-968-4290 | 1-866-825-1471 | fax: 320-968-4291

www.centralmnartsboard.org

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Artist Emergency Relief Fund (AERF) provides \$500 in support for individual artists or culture-bearers who are facing loss of income or unexpected expenses related to an emergency. Possible emergencies include illness or injury, loss of housing, contract cancellation, legal assistance, or other disruptive events that impact an artist's wellbeing or ability to work since January 1st, 2026. Individuals must be currently active in a creative practice and live in Region 7W: Minnesota counties of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns or Wright.

Applicants can apply in every round until they receive funding. The AERF is a confidential program. Funded applicants will not be announced publicly, and no promotion is required from recipients.

The Artist Emergency Relief Fund Network is stewarded by Springboard for the Arts supported in part by F.R. Bigelow Foundation, Jerome Foundation, McKnight Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. The AERF is not connected to any other CMAB grant program.

WHO CAN APPLY

- A self-proclaimed and active artist or culture-bearer at least 18 years of age
- Current resident of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, or Wright County and a resident of Minnesota for a minimum of six months prior to application
- Artists may receive one relief payment per CMAB fiscal year
- AERF support does not affect applications to other CMAB grant programs

APPLICANTS NOT ELIGIBLE

- An individual without an active creative practice
- Organizations or LLCs
- An individual who has already received FY27 Artist Emergency Relief Fund

ELIGIBLE EMERGENCY EXPENSES

Applicants will need to select one of the following

- Basic Needs — living or housing expenses, food insecurity, utility increases
- Health and Care – expenses related to illness, medication/prescriptions, injury, changes in health, mental or physical condition, care of an immediate family member (child, spouse/partner, parent)
- Loss of Income – unexpected cancellations, family emergencies, transportation issues, contractual changes
- Unexpected Creative Expenses – loss of equipment or supplies due to circumstances beyond your control
- Professional Expenses – transportation, fees related to a legal issue, unexpected loss of creative space

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Expenses that are not directly related to your necessary and immediate personal safety, care, or basic needs
- Emergency related expenses that occurred before January 1st, 2026.

HOW TO APPLY

Artists, creatives, and makers working in all disciplines and mediums are encouraged to apply. Work samples should demonstrate your active creative practice.

Click the **MANAGE GRANTS** button in the upper right corner of the CMAB homepage. First-time applicants need to create an account using an email address and a password. Applicants are encouraged to call the CMAB office at 320.968.4290 to discuss the eligibility of their application.

- Applications are accepted until 11:59 p.m. on deadline date.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decision within 30 days of application submission.
- Funds can be applied to Emergency expenses that occurred after January 1st, 2026.

Submit your application online and include:

- **WORK SAMPLES** with descriptions

APPLICATION CONTENT

The Artist Emergency Relief Fund applications are reviewed to confirm applicant as a practicing artist before entered in a random drawing.

- 1) **Art Form** - Indicate your art form and include specific mediums, genre, themes, etc. in 10 words or less.
- 2) **Arts Practice** - Explain how you currently practice your art (performances, exhibitions, sales, technical pursuits, workshops, professional growth, etc.).
- 3) **Artist Statement - Provide a brief statement about you and your art.**
An artist statement should help readers understand the most important aspects of your work (inspiration, process, intentions, etc).

4) Artist Work Sample Description and Upload

Work samples must be created within the past five years and must not violate any copyright. Choose how you would like to submit your work samples. A text description area is provided with each choice. Include the title, description, and year created for each sample. Contact media@centralmnartsboard.org if you need assistance attaching work samples.

- Image Upload- Two- or Three-Dimensional work – Submit five (.jpg files, up to 5 MB)
- Literary Work– Submit up to seven pages (one .pdf file, up to 5MB)
- Video/Audio Upload – Submit a seven-minute sample (.mp3 or .mov files, up to 12 MB, or URL link)
- Website URL address – Submit up to 4 URL addresses

5) Type of Emergency (select one of the following choices)

- **Basic Needs** – living or housing expenses, food insecurity, utility increases
- **Health and Care** – expenses related to illness, medication/prescriptions, injury, changes in health or physical condition, care of an immediate family member (child, spouse/partner, parent)
- **Loss of Income** – unexpected cancellations, family emergencies, transportation issues, contractual changes
- **Unexpected Creative Expenses** – loss of equipment or supplies due to circumstances beyond your control
- **Other** – transportation, fees related to a legal issue, unexpected loss of creative space, unique circumstances

6) When did the emergency arise? Emergency must happen after January 1, 2026.

DATA COLLECTION

The following questions are optional.

- **Applicant Age** – Enter your age.
- **Applicant Gender** – Select one that best describes your gender. Male; Female; Nonbinary
- **Applicant Ancestry** – Select any combination (optional). **N** = American Indian/Native American; **A** = Asian; **P** = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; **B** = Black/African American; **H** = Hispanic/Latino; **M** = Middle Eastern/North African; **W** = White; **R** = Multiracial or Biracial; **99** = None of the above.
- **Applicant Identity** – Indicate if you identify as a member of any of the following demographics: **I** = Individuals with Disabilities; **S** = Adults older than Sixty; **V** = Military Veterans; **Q** = 2SLGBTQIAA+; **E** = English as Second Language (ESL); **99** = None of the above
- **Additional Information** (optional) - Data collection questions do not always provide options to accurately describe the racial or ethnic identity of applicants. If there is more information you want to provide about your race or ethnicity, include it here.

CERTIFICATION

1) Electronic signature

Your signature indicates that all the information in the application is true.

CMAB SERVICES AND GRANTING PROCESS

REVIEW PROCESS

Artist Emergency Relief Fund applications are entered into a random drawing. Drawings will take place on August 4th (July 28th Deadline), October 6th (September 29th Deadline), and December 8th (December 1st Deadline). Drawings are recorded for documentation but not made public.

Applicants will be notified of funding decision within 30 days after drawing date.

Selected applications are approved by CMAB's Executive Director and confirmed by CMAB Board of Directors. All application information including applicant name and type of emergency are confidential; the names of recipients will not be made public in promotional announcements or CMAB reports.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CMAB FUNDING

There is no required acknowledgement for this funding.

ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS

Recipients must sign an Acceptance Form to receive funding intended for emergency relief. Recipients do not receive a contract and will not need to claim Artist Emergency Relief Funds for tax purposes and will not receive a 1099.

Payments will be made via check.

AI POLICY

CMAB recognizes the growing use of artificial intelligence as an assistance tool for the grant application process. AI should not be used to fully generate art, application answers, or proposals. Applications with excessive AI-generated content may be deemed ineligible.

FINAL REPORT

There is NO final report required for this program. Recipients can include an optional anonymous message to donors to express gratitude or explain impact.

DEFINITIONS

Applicant- an individual, group, organization, or local government organizing and implementing the proposal. (If two groups are involved, select one to be the lead/applicant.)

Eligible- something that is permitted as part of the proposal or budget

Emergency: A serious and unexpected situation that requires immediate action and financial support

Fiscal Year (CMAB)- July 1st to June 30th

Resident- Someone who resides in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, or Benton counties for at least six months prior to application submission. This will be the location of your legally established residence.

For more information on Central MN Arts Board programs, visit our website at <http://www.centralmnartsboard.org> or call 320.968.4290 or 1.866.825.1471.