



Application Ranking Guide – Statewide and Regional Networks

This document is intended to act as a guide to assist applicants in composing successful applications to the **Statewide and Regional Networks** grant program.

A peer panel reviews all applications and work samples in a multi-step process that involves assigning numerical ranks to each application. The 6-point ranking system below is utilized and panelists' ranks are averaged to obtain the final score.

For each of the following rankings, the description refers to the contents of the application submitted, including work samples and attachments.

6	Exemplary	Meets all of the review criteria to the highest degree possible
5	Strong	Meets all of the review criteria in a significant manner
4	Good	Meets the majority of the review criteria; however, areas of the application need improvement, development or clarification
3	Marginal	Does not meet the majority of the review criteria in a significant manner
2	Weak	Significant inadequacies in addressing review criteria
1	Ineligible	Inappropriate for CAC support. Incomplete applications, applications with significant ineligible expenses, and proposals that do not meet program requirements are deemed ineligible.

Below, the qualities of exemplary applications (Ranked 6) in the **Statewide and Regional Networks** program are outlined, and the areas of the application in which those criteria will be assessed are identified.

Review Criteria #1: *Statewide and Regional Arts Networking*: Degree to which the organization serves as a network for working artists, constituent organizations, and cultural communities; strength of statewide or regional reach in programs, services and constituency through communications, professional development opportunities, networking and arts advocacy.

Qualities of Exemplary Applications:

- Organizational activities and programs are clearly articulated, are well developed, and demonstrate how they strengthen and advance the collective group.
- Application evidences active, effective, and relevant statewide or regional reach.
- Application includes clearly articulated outcomes and benchmarks for success, and clear methods for gathering and analyzing relevant data.
- Organizational activities and programs support the network to discover and work with one another across geographic locations, enabling new partnerships and ideological convergences.

Areas of Assessment:

- Proposal Narrative
 - List of Programs and Services
 - Letter of Support or Testimonial
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Review Criteria #2: *Access, Equity and Constituent Engagement*: Programs and services are closely aligned with organization's mission and the needs of the intended constituency; organizational membership, services or activities are demonstrated to be open and accessible to all members of constituency; advance a statewide or regional arts agenda, constituent base and field.

Qualities of Exemplary Applications:

- Organization demonstrates that the needs and contexts of the particular network being served guide the development of outcomes and activities.
- Applicant clearly articulates a plan for reaching the entirety of the network, and for continuously improving and/or expanding the network and the reach of services.
- Organization demonstrates the accessibility and equity of its activities leading to greater efficiency, shared intelligence, and innovation.

Areas of Assessment:

- Organizational Profile
 - Proposal Narrative
 - Work samples
 - Network List (if applicable)
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Review Criteria #3: *Fiscal Leadership and Management*: Strategies exist to strengthen organizational capacity and constituent base; Organization is able to demonstrate a diversity of income from both public and private sources; appropriate levels of staff compensation with strong opportunities for staff development; effective governance policies and structure; active statewide or regional participation in the governance and services of the organization; a governing body that is diverse in professional skills; and ongoing strategic planning and implementation.

Qualities of Exemplary Applications:

- Application includes evidence of qualified administrative personnel and organizational structure necessary to implement proposed activities, programs, and services.
- Organization demonstrates overall fiscal health.
- Staff and board membership are diverse and representative of the entirety of the network.
- Organization demonstrates clear short and long range planning for sustainability and strategic planning.
- Application, including project narrative and budget, are complete and free from error.

Areas of Assessment:

- Proposal Narrative
 - Data Arts Profile
 - Board of Directors' List
 - Key Biographies
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