The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Grants Program

Background:

The Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission (NSC), a seventeen-member State Agency appointed by the Governor of Nebraska, is authorized to execute commemorative events and to implement educational activities with emphasis on events and activities that promote Nebraska and its economy by focusing on the state’s history, cultural diversity and unique geography (NRS 81-8-310)

The NSC has been authorized to grant funds in support of Nebraska’s Sesquicentennial of Statehood which will be recognized throughout the 2017 calendar year. Funds for the Sesquicentennial Grants Program are made available from the sales of the special Nebraska 150 vehicle license plates.

The NSC will offer a limited number of grants for the purpose of assisting recipients in conducting activities with a broad public benefit in recognition and support of the 150th Anniversary of Nebraska Statehood (the Sesquicentennial of Nebraska Statehood).

These are non-competitive grants and applications will be considered in the order in which they are received at Celebrating Nebraska Statehood (CNS), a 501(c)(3) corporation chartered in the State of Nebraska to support the Sesquicentennial activities. All grants are dependent on the availability of funds.

Projects for which grants may be requested include, but are in no way limited to:

- those involving K-12 students from preschool through institutions of higher education
- community festivals
- county fairs
- historical commemorations
- Tribal powwows and educational programming
- activities designed to preserve community memories
- Sesquicentennial-related programming across the range of the arts and humanities.

The primary focus of all projects submitted for these NSC grants must be clearly related to this unique and one-time sesquicentennial celebration and commemoration and/or aspects of the life and times of Nebraska and the Nebraskans from prehistoric times to the present.

It is important to remember that the NSC is only interested in funding projects related to the 150th Anniversary of Nebraska Statehood. Grants are limited to events and activities that originate and/or take place within the boundaries of the State of Nebraska.
Who May Apply for an NSC Grant?
Any Nebraska organization: not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, units of government and their subsidiaries, schools, clubs civic organizations, public and private schools, and individual residents of Nebraska.

Size of Grants:
The NSC shall make grants in amounts ranging from $500 to $5,000. Smaller grant applications are especially encouraged in order that the Commission may support Sesquicentennial activities in as many locations and for as many audiences as possible.

Matching requirements:
All grant amounts shall be matched on a dollar for dollar basis. Matching shall be in cash or in pre-approved in-kind services including volunteer time. All matching regardless of source must be fully documented.

Period of Grants:
Unless otherwise requested and approved in advance, all grant funds shall be used during the period of September 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

Grant Application Period and Process:
As noted above this is a non-competitive grants program. Grant applications may be submitted beginning on June 15, 2016, and continuing through September 1, 2017. Grant applications, however, must be submitted a minimum of ninety (90) days before the event or other activity for which funding is sought to provide for adequate period for NSC review, processing and the applicant’s time for implementation and publicity.

Applications and instructions are found at NE150.org/grants. On-line applications are encouraged and preferred, but applicants may request printed copies of the application forms and submit those to the CNS at 208 North 8th Street, Suite 215, Lincoln, NE 69508. Questions re. the completion of the applications can be directed to Ne.150.org or by phone to 402-435-5233.

Uses of Grant Funds:
Possible uses of grant funds include promotion and publicity of the funded activity; honorariums and travel costs for writers and performers; prizes for Sesquicentennial-related contests; rental of tents, chairs, sound systems or other equipment to be used in the funded event or activity; publications and films/documentaries/oral history interviews and transcriptions; other direct costs associated with the funded event or activity. Applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure the public benefit and the public accessibility of activities.
Grant funds may not be used for: events and activities that have already taken place; advocacy or political events or activities, the compensation of permanent or temporary employees; food or alcohol; capital improvements or construction or the purchase of equipment or other capital costs; an organization’s usual and on-going operating expenses or overhead.

**Application Review and Decisions:**
The Commission will review applications that are deemed complete in the order in which they are received. The Commission’s Grant Review Joint Working Committee (GRJWC) will conduct an initial review and make recommendations to the full Commission in its regularly scheduled meetings.

The Commission is the final arbiter of decisions on all grant applications and its decisions are not appealable. Applicants should plan on a minimum of ninety (90) days from the date of application until the proposed project start time to permit review and processing as well as an adequate organizing and promotional period.

The Commission may take the following actions on any application it receives for this program:
- deny the application;
- deny or table the application due to lack of funds;
- approve the application in full as presented by the applicant;
- approve an amount less than that sought by the applicant;
- approve the application with conditions which the applicant must accept;
- approve and fund only a part of the activities as proposed in the application.

**Payment of Grant Funds:**
All grant amounts will be paid to the grantee on a reimbursable basis upon submittal of fully-documented and auditable project reports in the designated format. All requests and reports must be submitted to the NSHS using the forms provided with the notification of the grant award and within the stipulated reporting period.

**Required Credit:**
Using the official Sesquicentennial Logo, grant recipients shall prominently acknowledge the NSC and the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) in all publicity generated in connection with events and programs supported through these grant funds; acknowledgement shall also be given verbally at the funded event or program. Guidelines for use of the Sesquicentennial logo and wording for acknowledgement will be provided to grantees.

**Grant Program Administration:**
The NSC Grant Program is administratively managed by the Nebraska State Historical Society, the statutorily-designated administrative agency for the NSC.

As approved April 18, 2016.