



California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners

APPLICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[SPANISH: PREGUNTAS FRECUENTES DE LA APLICACIÓN](#)

[CHINESE \(Mandarin\): 常见问题](#)

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for the California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners?

To apply for the California Relief Fund for Artists and Cultural Practitioners, applicants:

- Must be a current, full-time resident of the state of California
- Must be an artist or cultural practitioner; and must provide a website url or social media link that demonstrates applicant's professional role in arts and culture.
- Must not be eligible for or currently receiving CA-state unemployment insurance (UI) benefits (Applicants receiving CARES benefits through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance [PUA] program ARE eligible for funding); and
- Cannot have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationships) with the boards, staff, and directors of CCI, or California Arts Council, or state-level elected officials and their staffs.

Who qualifies as an Artist or Cultural Practitioner?

Applicants who have an active role in California's arts and culture are eligible to apply. This includes, but is not limited to, visual and performing artists, teaching artists, culture bearers, and maker-based sole or collective-based creative entrepreneurs.

Language

Is the application available in other languages besides English?

We are only able to accept applications in English, however non-English speakers are encouraged to apply. The application is brief and simple and we encourage you to find a friend, neighbor, or family member who can help you to help you complete it.

Proof of Residency

Application question:

Upload ONE document that shows your NAME and ADDRESS as proof of California Residency. [Only full-time, current residents of the state of California are eligible to apply.]

1. What types of documents can I provide for my proof of California Residency?

You may submit any document from a third party that clearly shows your NAME and CURRENT ADDRESS.

We will accept the following documents as proof of residency:

- Driver's license or government-issued ID card
- Utility bill (electricity, water, gas, internet service or phone bill)
- Health insurance statement or medical bill
- Bank or credit card statement
- Statement of government benefits (this could include SSI, SSDI, SNAP, etc)

Please note: We only need to see the NAME and ADDRESS on your document. You do not need to upload the entire document. Please cover up sensitive information like your Social Security and account numbers.

2. Which file types are acceptable for Proof of Residency?

You may upload JPEG, PDF, PNG, DOC, DOCX or XLS files to the system. Files must be less than 1000 x 1000 pixels.

3. My JPEG/PNG file is too large. How do I resize my Proof of Residency photo?

If you are uploading a JPEG or PNG file, our online system will only accept files that are 1000 x 1000 pixels or less. If you have a newer cell phone, your camera settings may be set to take the highest quality photo, which may be too large to upload.

Here are some ways to make your file smaller so you are able to upload it:

- **Crop your image:** Take a picture of the document from about two or three feet away, then crop the photo by using the “edit” feature in your pictures/gallery app. You can drag the corners of the edit box to crop out everything but the document, which makes the file size substantially smaller. The following links provide more detailed instructions of how to crop your photos in both iPhone and Android.
[How to crop photos for iPhone and iPad](#)
[How to crop photos using Google Photos \(for Android phones\)](#)
- **Use a re-sizing app:** You can download apps that help you resize your photos.
[List of apps to resize photos for Android phones](#)
[List of apps to resize photos for iPhone](#)
- **Save the image as a PDF:** Generally, PDFs are smaller size than JPEG/PNG (picture) files. If most phones, you can take a photo, then select the option to print your picture. When you do this, you can select to save the file as a PDF.
[How to save images as PDF on Windows, Mac, iPhone, and Android](#)

Unemployment Benefits

Application question:

Are you eligible for or currently receiving traditional CA-state unemployment insurance [UI] benefits?

1. Can I apply for this fund if I am receiving unemployment?

Applicants who are currently receiving or eligible for traditional CA-state unemployment insurance [UI] **ARE NOT** eligible to apply. Applicants who are receiving CARES Act benefits through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program [PUA] **ARE** eligible to apply.

This fund is meant to prioritize applicants for whom traditional state unemployment is not an option. Artists and cultural practitioners have been historically ineligible for these traditional benefits, usually due to their status as independent contractors, sole proprietors, or gig economy workers.

If you have applied for benefits but are waiting for a response from the state, you can mark “I’m not sure,” and your application will be accepted.

2. How do I know if I am receiving traditional state unemployment insurance benefits (UI) or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)?

Generally, if you were hired as an employee of a business and had payroll taxes taken out of your check each pay period and have applied for unemployment, then you are likely receiving traditional state unemployment insurance benefits and ARE NOT eligible to apply for this fund.

If you are a contract or self-employed worker (gig worker) who receives 1099 forms from your job(s), or taxes are not taken out of your check, or if you own your own business as a sole proprietor, and you have applied for unemployment, then you are likely receiving special Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and ARE eligible to apply for this fund.

If you have already applied for unemployment, your letter from the Employment Development Department (EDD) will indicate which form of unemployment benefits you are eligible for or receiving.

If you are still unsure, you can visit this link for more information about State Unemployment Insurance versus Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/pandemic-unemployment-assistance/faqs.htm