

WFF Housing Stability Grant for Artists 2026 Guidelines

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET

NYFA accepts applications submitted online at apply.nyfa.org/submit

The Woodman Family Foundation Housing Stability Grant for Artists (WFF HSG) provides grants of \$30,000, distributed over three years, to NYC-based visual artists in need who are seeking support for stable housing. In its second cycle, the WFF HSG will award grants to five artists.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The WFF Housing Stability Grant for Artists is offered in recognition of the increasing unaffordability of rental housing in New York City, and that housing insecurity diminishes artists' ability to meet their highest potential as creators. Its goal is to improve artists' housing stability, through a \$30,000 grant that is distributed over three years. The WFF HSG hopes that recipients will be able to remain in, or find, reliable and stable housing for at least three years, thereby allowing them to focus on their creative practice and build more sustainable careers. These grants are designed to provide supplemental support towards artists' long-term housing budgets, rather than provide the primary source of funding for immediate housing needs.

Recipients will be provided with information and guidance for affordable housing in New York City through a partnership with the Entertainment Community Fund (ECF). ECF has also provided this [downloadable NYC Housing Resources Guide](#) which is available for anyone seeking immediate assistance.

GRANT TIMELINE

Application Opens: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM ET

Application Closes: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:00 PM ET*

Applicants Notified: Summer 2026

****Please note that the application form on Submittable will automatically close & stop accepting applications at this time.***

WHO CAN APPLY

There are three eligibility criteria in this program: Individual, Artistic, and Housing Instability. You need to meet all three areas, as of the cycle's deadline, to apply.

Individual Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be **21 years or older** on April 14, 2026
- Reside in one of the five boroughs of **New York City**: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan,

Queens or Staten Island

- If you receive a grant, you must maintain residency in NYC during the grant's three-year period.
- Have maintained New York City residency for at least the last **five consecutive years (2021-present)**. A single, short (12 months or less) absence is acceptable.
- Have a **maximum adjusted gross income of \$80,000 for an individual, or maximum of \$160,000 for joint filers, averaged over the last two federal tax returns** (include wages, 1099 income, Social Security income, sales/royalties from artwork or properties, rental income, interest income or spousal support).
- Have **household assets no greater than \$90,720 (\$129,600 for joint filers) as of the application deadline**. Household assets include savings accounts, checking accounts, trusts, cash savings, investment assets (stocks/bonds etc.) and the entire market value of any interest in real property (residential, commercial, land, shares in a co-op, etc.).
- Not currently own or have equity in a primary or secondary residence
- Not currently be receiving rental assistance through a program including, but not limited to, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), Section 8 project-Based Voucher (PBV), Family Eviction Prevention Supplement (FEPS or CityFHEPS), Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), or a tenant in Public Housing or Section 202 (Supportive Housing for the Elderly).
- Not be enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind.
- Not have received a WFF Housing Stability Grant in the past. The WFF HSG is a one-time grant.
- Demonstrate recent and ongoing activity as a visual artist (defined below).

Artistic Eligibility

Applications are open to practicing visual artists who are creating original, independent work in the visual arts and are seeking support for stable housing. Only generative artists—the creator of the original work—may apply.

Applicants must:

- Be practicing **visual artists** whose primary artistic discipline fits within the one or more of the following categories:
 - Painting
 - Photography
 - Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts
 - Sculpture

- Be able to demonstrate a proven track record of their commitment to their contemporary art practice for at least the last **seven years (2019-present)**. This can be demonstrated through any of the following:
 - Public showings of their work including exhibitions, presentations, installations, or workshops
 - Public/community projects such as public art, murals, or community-based projects with public components
 - Participation in artist residency, fellowship, or grant programs
 - Public lectures or panels
 - Documentation of art sales
 - Work for hire or mass produced work is not eligible.
 - Documentation of art sales cannot be your sole artistic activity over the past seven years. You must be able to demonstrate at least one in-person showing of your work to be eligible.

Please note:

- Reduced activity during the pandemic (2020-21) or for another single period of up to 12 months is acceptable if, in such cases, you are able to demonstrate public activity prior to 2019.
- Work that is created for online distribution and consumption is eligible IF it is a creative work, and was actively marketed to the public for showing at a specific date and time. However, work presented online cannot be your sole artistic activity over the past seven years. You must be able to demonstrate at least one in-person showing of your work to be eligible.
- If online presentations or sales of your work are your sole platform, such as online galleries, Instagram or YouTube, or your work is only available on-demand, we cannot consider your application eligible.
- Work samples are not considered and are not requested.

Housing Instability Eligibility

Applicants must be experiencing or anticipating housing instability through one or more of the following circumstances:

- Not having a lease or written agreement with the owner/landlord of your housing, or a sublease with tenant of record
- Currently in a month-to-month or other uncertain housing situation
- Currently be paying more than 40% of your income in rent (including utilities)
- Have received notice of a rent increase within the next six months that will increase your

rent to 40% or more of your income

- Needing to leave your current housing or facing an increase in the cost of your current housing because of an unexpected partnership dissolution, for your physical or emotional safety, or because of an unhealthy condition such as mold, lack of utilities or hazardous conditions

Currently-unhoused artists or those in need of immediate assistance are not eligible for this program; funding decisions will not be made until Summer 2026. This program provides supplemental rent and utilities subsidies to artists who are currently renting in NYC so that they can focus on their creative practice.

While we are not able to provide direct financial support to unhoused artists or those in need of immediate assistance at this time, we recommend that artists who are currently, or may imminently become, unhoused, to [explore our list of Housing Resources](#), [download this NYC Housing Resources Guide](#), and/or [visit Entertainment Community Fund's Information and Resources portal](#). To access the portal, you can register with a free account.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must be in English (though they may be translated by someone other than the applicant) and can be completed by a proxy if needed.

What to Submit

To complete an application, you will need to:

- **Complete the Housing Status Checklist**
- **State your current housing situation (50 words max)**
- **Provide the following narrative answers (200 words max each)**
 - Describe your current housing instability
 - Describe your creative practice
 - Describe the importance of working in NYC to your creative practice
 - Describe the potential impact to your artistic practice
- **List your share of projected annual total housing expense for 2026**
- **List your projected total income for 2026**
- **List your annual adjusted gross income (averaged over the last two years)**
 - Your annual adjusted gross income is listed on line 11 of your 1040

- This amount must include wages (W2 income), income from interest/dividends/IRA and pension distributions/Social Security benefits, capital gains, and net income from sales/receipts/1099 income and should reflect the figures from your submitted tax returns.
- **Upload copies of your two most recent federal tax filings.**
 - Provide your complete 1040 and all schedules for both years. Please redact your Social Security number.
 - Depending on whether you've filed taxes yet this year, you can upload your 2024 and 2025 tax returns OR your 2023 and 2024 tax returns. Tax returns from 2022 or earlier are not accepted, and will deem your application ineligible.
 - If your income was [below the federal threshold](#) and you did not file taxes in 2023, 2024, and/or 2025, please upload a document that confirms your income for that year.
- **List your approximate total household assets**
 - If you receive a grant, you will need to provide documentation of your actual total household assets and certify that the list is true and correct in order to receive funds.
 - Household assets include savings accounts, checking accounts, trusts, cash savings, investment assets (stocks/bonds etc.) and the entire market value of any interest in real property (residential, commercial, land, shares in a co-op, etc.).
 - Balances in specifically-designated retirement funds and college savings accounts are not subject to the asset limit; if income is realized, these will be reflected on the 1040 and are subject to the limit.
 - For other capital investments, only the applicant's equity in the investment is subject to the asset limit.
- **Complete the Access to Resources Checklist**
- **Submit a Resume/Bio/CV**
 - The Resume/Bio/CV must show recent and sustained artistic practice over the course of at least the last seven years, since 2019, in painting, photography, printmaking/drawing/book arts, and/or sculpture.
 - List specific events/opportunities for the public to experience your work over this time (at least once annually), including the year, location (city or town and venue), and title. Reduced activity during the pandemic (2020-21) or for another single period of up to 12 months is acceptable if, in such cases, you are able to demonstrate public activity prior to 2019

- Work samples are not considered and are not accepted.
- **Certify everything in the application is true**

How Grant Expenses Work

Grants are paid in three annual installments. Funds may only be used for security deposits, rent and/or utilities incurred within the eligible grant periods:

- **Year 1 (\$12,000):** May 1, 2026 - August 30, 2027
- **Year 2 (\$10,000):** September 1, 2027 - August 30, 2028
- **Year 3 (\$8,000):** September 1, 2028 - August 30, 2029

Applicants may request funds for existing housing whose cost has recently increased, or for which you've received notice of an increase, or to move to new housing (whether or not that housing has been identified at the time you apply).

The expenses for which you are requesting funds must be for rental housing located within the five boroughs of New York City.

Recipients will need to provide documentation of the use of funds (copy of new lease; copy of receipt for security deposit; etc.) and additional financial information to establish that their existing financial assets reflect the application information.

Recipients will need to maintain eligibility status throughout the three-year grant term in order to continue to receive funds each year.

Ineligible expenses include:

- Mortgage payments or the purchase of a home
- HOA fees
- Expenses incurred outside of the eligible grant periods listed above

NYFA regularly revisits its grant guidelines and eligibility requirements to improve clarity and accessibility and reduce unintentional bias. We invite feedback and suggestions that we can consider within the parameters of the program funder's goals and NYFA's required processes.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed through a three-step process:

1. All applications are reviewed by NYFA Grants Staff for eligibility and completeness.
2. Eligible applications are then assessed by an outside panel. The panel will carefully review and score assigned applications independently based on the evaluation criteria. Applications will be reviewed anonymously.
3. Following the panel review, top scoring applications are placed into a lottery.
4. Finalists based on the lottery participate in a Zoom interview to confirm eligibility.

Please note: This is a very competitive program, and an application is not a guarantee of support due to the expected large number of qualified applications and the limited amount of funds (five \$30,000 3-year grants in this cycle).

Evaluation Criteria

Panelists will assess eligible applications according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. Housing Instability

- The applicant's current housing situation is clearly described and conveys the urgency of the housing situation, a plan for what needs to change, and why this grant is critical to their housing needs in the upcoming three years.

2. Commitment to NYC-based Art Practice

- The applicant provides details about their art practice such as what type of work they create, what materials they use, how and why they create their work, and how much time they dedicate to their art practice.
- The applicant demonstrates why remaining in NYC is important to their creative practice, and describes their relationship to the NYC arts community.

3. Potential Impact of Grant Funds

- The applicant clearly articulates how increased housing stability would impact their creative practice and allow them to increase their potential as a creator.
- The applicant demonstrates how this grant would be supplemental to their overall financial stability, and how they will use the funds to enhance their sustainability.

A Note on Privacy

We take the privacy of applicants and recipients seriously. The names of WFF HSG grant recipients are not published on our website or in our 990 or other financial documents. All reviewers sign confidentiality agreements, and the application and financial information is kept confidential and only seen by staff.

HOW TO APPLY

We only accept applications via [Submittable](#). First-time users will need to register with the free Submittable platform to access the application portal.

Applications for the 2026 program cycle will open on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10 AM ET.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and no exceptions will be made. We strongly recommend that applicants complete their applications in advance of the deadline to allow time for work samples to upload and to avoid potential technical problems.

Applicants will receive an automatic response from Submittable once their application has been successfully received.

If you require an accommodation due to a disability, please contact apply@nyfa.org or 212-366-6900 ext. 239 at least two weeks prior to the deadline.

Information Sessions

Links to recorded information sessions and live info session registrations can be found on the [WFF HSG homepage](#).

CONTACT

For questions, please reach out to apply@nyfa.org.

This program is made possible through the support of the [Woodman Family Foundation](#) (WFF). The Woodman Family Foundation is dedicated to stewarding the work and legacies of Betty Woodman (1930-2018), George Woodman (1932-2017), and their daughter, Francesca Woodman (1958-1981). All visual artists, they lived and worked in New York City in a more affordable time. Each intimately understood that secure housing within the city's active arts community is vital to supporting the work of artists. The WFF HSG will serve established visual artists living in, and planning to remain living in, New York City.