



REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION
OF ST. LOUIS

Applying with a Fiscal Sponsor

Fiscal Sponsorship is a contractual relationship in which a 501(c)(3) public charity sponsors a project that may lack exempt status. This alternative to starting a new nonprofit allows you to apply for (and receive!) grant funding and to solicit tax-deductible donations under the sponsor's exempt status. It is also an option for one-time projects that may be eligible for charitable donations.

New and emerging arts organizations are eligible to apply with a fiscal sponsor (agent) in Program Support, with a maximum request of \$10,000, provided that the Fiscal Sponsor is a nonprofit corporation in the State of Missouri with 501 (c)3 tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service, preferably with a history of arts programming OR has tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service with a fiscal sponsorship-based mission*.

If an applicant plans to use a fiscal sponsor, a contractual arrangement between the applicant and the Fiscal Sponsor must be confirmed prior to the RAC application process. A fiscal sponsor may require a fee to offset administrative expense (typically 6 - 8% of contributed funds).

Applicants who are approved for funding cannot retroactively work with or change fiscal sponsorship after a RAC grant is approved for funding.

If an application is funded, the applicant and the fiscal sponsor must both sign the Terms and Conditions Agreement issued by RAC.

If an applicant is approved for funding, the fiscal sponsor is the legal grantee and receives the funds on behalf of the fiscally sponsored entity.

The fiscal sponsor and the fiscally sponsored entity are required to work together to complete and submit financial documentation of the disbursement of funds with the grant's final report.

The sponsored project is responsible for program management, marketing, evaluation, and fundraising.

Required Documents for the Program Support Applications with a Fiscal Sponsor:

Fiscal Sponsor Agreement – An agreement letter, signed by the Fiscal Sponsor's executive director and co-signed by the fiscally sponsored entity, must be uploaded into the Blackbaud online grantmaking system as part of the application.

Organization Health Worksheet – This form, which is to be uploaded into the Blackbaud online grantmaking system as part of the application, should be completed with information about the fiscal sponsor.

990 Worksheet – This form, which is to be uploaded into the Blackbaud online grantmaking system as part of the application, should be completed with information from the fiscal sponsor's most recent 990.

Board of Director List (including officers and affiliations) – This list, which is to be uploaded into the Blackbaud online grantmaking system as part of the application, is the board list for the fiscal sponsor.

Financial Statements for the Two Most Recently Completed Fiscal Years (and most recent audit, if available) – The financial statements and audit from the fiscal sponsor needs to be uploaded into the Blackbaud online grantmaking system as part of the application.

Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) Statement, Policy, or Plan – If the fiscal sponsor has a DEI statement, policy, or plan, it can be uploaded into the Blackbaud online grantmaking system as part of the application.

* An organization with a fiscal sponsorship-based mission is one that adheres to best practices of fiscal sponsorship and reflects high operational standards for any organization operating in the public interest, as well as having the experience and capacity to act as a fiscal sponsor to a variety of entities. Two examples:

+ Midwest Artist Product Services: <https://www.midwestarts.org/maps.html>

+ Fractured Atlas: <https://www.fracturedatlas.org/fiscal-sponsorship>

For more information about fiscal sponsorships, please see the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) [Guide to Fiscal Sponsorship](#).