

STATEWIDE SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Pennsylvania Poetry Out Loud Program

DUE DATE: January 6, 2025

GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030

Overview

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, state and jurisdictional arts agencies, and local organizations.

POL is a national arts education program that encourages the study of poetry by offering free educational materials and a recitation competition for high school aged students across the country. POL starts at the classroom/school or at the local level with an area organization. Schools and organizations hold local level poetry recitation contests and identify a champion to move on to the next stage of competition. Winners then may advance to a regional and/or state competition, and ultimately to the national finals. [Learn more about the Poetry Out Loud program.](#)

RFP Details

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) has developed this RFP to engage an organization to administer and manage POL for Pennsylvania, including the state finals. Please note that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) requires that the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) stay closely involved in the program.

[Here is additional information from the NEA regarding specific requirements pertaining to Poetry Out Loud.](#)

Award

PCA anticipates approving one applicant with a non-matching annual award of \$75,000 for five years.

Eligibility

Applicants must be a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation, a unit of government, or a nonprofit college or university.

Review Criteria

Responsiveness of Proposed Approach and Implementation Plan -

Applicant demonstrates a responsiveness to this RFP in the proposed approach, implementation plan and proposed project budget.

Experience - Applicant demonstrates a successful history of conducting comparable programs and has significant experience in poetry projects and programs.

Capacity - Applicant demonstrates organizational capacity to carry out the statewide Poetry Out Loud program in Pennsylvania.

Agency Mission
To strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Pennsylvania's communities through the arts.

Overarching Value:
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Promote equitable access for all Pennsylvanians to participate fully in a creative life and in the diverse forms of arts and culture in the commonwealth.

pa.gov/arts

Submission Process

All questions regarding this process and completed proposals should be submitted to Jamie Dunlap [via email](#).

Application Narrative (not to exceed two pages):

1. Describe your implementation plan, including a timeline and key partners.
2. Describe your relevant experience with comparable projects and/or events.
3. Describe your capacity to carry out the Pennsylvania Poetry Out Loud Program and key team members who will assist in promotion, education, and event production.

Required Attachments:

1. Proposed project budget based on amount requested.

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