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Current information for Artists and Cultural Workers

Updated 4/14/20

According to [a study](#) by UNM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research New Mexico's cultural economy employs over 76,000 workers (10% of NM's workforce) and contributes \$5.6 million to NM's economy. The core of this economy are the 6,000 independent artists, writers, and performers, almost all of whom are self-employed.

Artists and cultural venues have been hit hard by the COVID-19 emergency, with cancellations of events and exhibits, and closings of gallery and other opportunities to market the arts. In addition to the resources available to self-employed, independent contractors and gig economy workers, special relief funds have been established for artists.

Emergency Relief for Artists – New Mexico

[New Mexico Arts](#) has a host of resources for individual artists and for arts organizations.

[The New Mexico Musicians Relief Fund \(NMMRF\)](#) helps musicians in NM who are financially impacted by cancellations due to COVID-19. The fund gives priority to artists of color, LGBTQ+ and non-binary artists, and disabled or immunocompromised artists, but they intend to help as many artists in need as they can. To donate, go to their [GoFundMe page](#).

[Fulcrum Fund](#), administered by 516 Arts in Albuquerque, is also providing emergency relief grants to local artists. They are accepting [donations](#) due to overwhelming demand.

Culture Connects Coalition and the Lannan Foundation have partnered to form the [Artist Relief Fund](#) to help Santa Fe artists residing in Santa Fe County. The first round of grant applications has closed. The next round of rolling applications will begin May 4 at 8:00 AM.

Santa Fe Community Foundation [Artist Medical Fund](#) helps address problems encountered by professional artists who are uninsured and liable to serious financial difficulties in the case of medical emergencies.

Emergency Relief for Artists – National

[Artist Relief](#) is an initiative organized by a number of small to mid-sized national arts grantmakers to help support the financial, professional, social, and mental well-being of artists impacted by the coronavirus public health crisis. The initiative will distribute grants of \$5,000 to practicing artists living in all fifty states, territories, and tribal nations who are facing dire financial emergencies due to COVID-19. The initiative will operate through September, as organizers monitor the impact of the pandemic and continue to fundraise to assist with the ongoing needs of the country's artists. For more information and/or to apply for a grant, visit the [Artist Relief](#) website. [Link to Complete RFP](#)

[Writers Emergency Fund](#), sponsored by PEN America, is expanding its Writers' Emergency Fund to support the literary community at this time. PEN America will distribute grants of \$500 to \$1,000 based on applications that demonstrate an inability to meet an acute financial need, especially one resulting from the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

[Music Covid Relief](#) supported by [many partners](#) in the U.S. music community to help music professionals access information and applications to receive benefits made available by the CARES Act as well as information about relief funds and potential grants from other organizations.