



Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants Overview and Eligibility Guidelines as of August 1, 2023

This program will provide one-time grants of up to \$3,000 to professional dancers in need, who are in dire financial emergency. You must demonstrate an urgent and critical need for emergency support in your application, and live in the United States, the District of Columbia, a Tribal Nation, or a U.S. Territory.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants have been updated, so please read these guidelines fully before deciding whether to apply.

As of July 2023, the Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants program provides one-time grants of up to \$3,000 to eligible dancers facing dire financial emergencies, due to the loss or lack of recent/current live performance work, because of circumstances outside of their control.

“Dire financial emergencies” include the lack or imminent endangerment of essentials such as housing, medicine/healthcare, utilities, and food. This grant program aims to provide dancers with greater stability to move forward by covering up to three months of essential expenses, recognizing the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the dance sector.

Available funds are limited to approximately \$68,000 awarded in each grant cycle, and the demand for emergency funding is high. Applying for a grant does not guarantee receiving one.

See the full eligibility guidelines below to determine if you can apply.

RAUSCHENBERG DANCER EMERGENCY GRANTS CYCLE 9:

Applications Open: Tuesday, August 8, 10:00 AM ET

Applications Close: Friday, September 8, 5:00 PM ET*

For Essential Expenses: Incurred between February 1, 2023 and January 31, 2024

Notification of Award: October 18, 2023

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

FUTURE CYCLES:

Cycle 10 will open for applications on October 24, with a deadline of December 1, for expenses between April 1, 2023 and March 30, 2024.

Cycle 11 will open for applications on January 23, 2024 with a deadline of February 23, 2024, for expenses between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Cycle 12 will open April 16, 2024 with a deadline of May 17, 2024, for expenses between September 1, 2023 and August 30, 2024.

These dates are subject to change.

ELIGIBILITY

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

1 – Individual Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be 21 years or older
- Reside in the United States, the District of Columbia, a Tribal Nation, or a U.S. Territory
- Be an artist in need, having an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or lower for an individual, or \$150,000 for joint filers, averaged over the last two federal tax returns.
- Not be enrolled in any degree-seeking program.
- Demonstrate current and ongoing activity as a professional dancer (defined below).
- Be experiencing a dire financial emergency, due to the loss or lack of recent/current live performance work, because of circumstances outside of your control. Common circumstances include cancelled performances, cutbacks or cancellations of dance engagement contracts, loss of touring opportunities, and ongoing shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact.

2 – Artistic Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a professional dancer. You need to have been working as a paid, live dance performer for at least the last five years (since 2018), in any stage/performance style, including aerial, ballet, hip-hop, jazz, modern, tap and traditional/folk. You may apply if you perform in a variety of settings (for instance: ticketed stage performances, free street festivals and/or music videos), as long as you have performed in live, public-facing performances regularly since 2018 (at least one paid engagement annually).

- You do not need to be a full-time dancer, or receive your primary income through your dance performance.
- Inactivity, or online/streaming activity, during COVID, and during the last six months, is allowable.
- Performances in educational/academic settings, social dance, competitive settings, clubs, exotic dance, commercials and industrials cannot be considered in this history of performing.
- Self-produced online presentation, and/or performances shared solely through personal websites, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook or other online platforms are not eligible.

If you perform your own work live, your resume needs to clearly indicate that you were BOTH the choreographer and dancer.

3 – Emergency Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be experiencing a dire financial emergency that has occurred within approximately the last six months. This is defined as the lack or imminent endangerment of essentials such as housing, medicine/healthcare, utilities, food and/or transportation. Your expenses must be direct, out-of-pocket expenses for you individually.
- The dire financial emergency needs to be the result of a loss or lack of current/recent (in the last six months) work as a paid dancer because of circumstances beyond your control. Common circumstances include canceled performances, cutbacks or cancellations of dance engagement contracts, loss of touring opportunities, and ongoing shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact.
- The expenses for which you are requesting funds must be incurred and paid within the U.S. (including D.C., Tribal Nations and U.S Territories).
- In each cycle, we can consider emergencies that have occurred within approximately the last six months. The earliest date for an eligible emergency is listed in the cycle's information.

HOW EMERGENCY EXPENSES WORK:

You may request up to \$3,000 for eligible essential expenses, for up to a three-month consecutive period, ranging from six months before the grant deadline through six months after the grant deadline. Expenses can be already paid by you, can be owed, or can be coming up in the near future.

NYFA reserves the right to determine eligible and reasonable expenses to support through this grant program.

Eligible expenses include:

- Rental housing (deposits, rent)
- Utilities
- Food

- Medical/dental/mental healthcare and insurance premiums
- Transportation (car payments, insurance, ride shares/taxis, mass transit)
- NEW: Expenses essential to maintaining your abilities as a dancer (class fees, dance gear/shoes, physical therapy)
- NEW: Rehearsal/studio space rental for teaching or choreographing (including insurance/utilities)
- Other essential expenses which you can specify

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Mortgage payments
- Expenses related to other family members (i.e. food, healthcare, child/parent-care)
- Non-essential expenses including credit card debt or student loans
- Purchases of vehicles or other equipment
- While housing and utilities expenses may be requested for your general household, other eligible expenses may only be requested for your own individual purposes. If you receive a grant, you will be required to certify your use of the funds for the expenses itemized in your application, and provide copies of your tax returns for the last two years you have filed.

Please check back here, or sign up for NYFA's bi-weekly NYFA News email, to receive updates on any potential future cycles.

If you have questions, contact the Rauschenberg Grants Coordinator at emergencyfunds@nyfa.org or 212-366-6900 x 239.

INFORMATION SESSION

In this recorded information session, Mollie Quinlan-Hayes, Program Coordinator, Rauschenberg Grants, will review the guidelines and application form of the Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants and responds to frequently asked questions.

Check back shortly for the video recording.

ABOUT

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) is proud to partner with the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation to administer Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants, an emergency grant program for professional dancers. Robert Rauschenberg was committed to assisting fellow artists in need of emergency aid, ultimately establishing the nonprofit foundation Change, Inc. in 1970. Recognizing the particularly extreme impact the pandemic and its ongoing effect has had on dancers, the Rauschenberg Dancer Emergency Grants have been created.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

NYFA is committed to supporting artists from every background, and at all stages in their creative careers. We strongly encourage artists of color, LGBTQ+ artists, artists with disabilities, and artists living outside of the East and West coasts to apply.

To request an accommodation or assistance in applying, please email emergencyfunds@nyfa.org or call 212-366-6900 ext. 239. We ask that requests for accommodation be made as soon as possible, preferably two weeks prior to the deadline, to allow adequate time for staff to support you in submitting an application on time.