



Info Session: 2026 Professional Development Consulting Program

November 13, 2025

Agenda

- Overview
- Eligibility and Requirements
- Review Process and Criteria
- How to Apply
- Building a Strong Application
- Q & A

Overview

- US-based literary magazines and presses may apply for support to pay for 10 to 20 hours of working with a professional consultant on a proposed project to help build organizational capacity.
- This program helps grantees identify and implement strategies for improvement in areas such as marketing; publicity; distribution; website audit; fundraising; strategic and succession planning; diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; and overall operations.

Eligibility

- Applicants that received NYSCA funding for 2026 are ineligible.
- Applicants must be based in the United States or US territories.
- Applicants do NOT need to be nonprofits; funds will be paid directly to consultants.
- Applicants must have published at least one title or issue within the past 18 months.
- Applicants that primarily publish children's literature or children's writing are not eligible.
- Self-publishers (over 50% of content published by authors on staff) and "hybrid" publishers (in which authors pay for part or all of publication costs) are not eligible.

Requirements

- Applicants must have a consultant confirmed before applying.
- Applicants must be able to complete the proposed project by November 30, 2026.
- Applicants are required to provide a final report to CLMP at the conclusion of the grant period.

NYSCA NYTAP Regrants

- Registered nonprofit OR has a fiscal sponsor
- Located in New York State
- Ready to execute a project that will help build organizational capacity

Professional Development Consulting Program

- Nonprofit OR for-profit publishers
- Located anywhere in the United States
- Need professional, expert guidance in order to set a course for and execute a project

Timeline

- November 17, 2025: Application portal opens
- December 17, 2025, 8 p.m. PT: Application portal closes
- February 2026: Grants announced
- February–November 2026: Grant period
- November 30, 2026: Projects completed
- December 15, 2026: Final reports due

Application

- Applications will be accepted through Submittable.
- The application portal will open on November 17, 2025.
- A downloadable version of the application is available on our website.
- **CLMP will not be reviewing drafts of applications this year, but please contact us with questions.**

Review Process

Grants will be recommended by an independent panel of three individuals with expertise in the literary field. Final grant decisions will be approved by a committee of the CLMP Board of Directors.

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Clear and complete articulation of the proposed project
- Feasibility of the project as described in project description
- Potential impact on organizational capacity and/or sustainability
- Artistic excellence of the submitted work and contribution to the literary field

Building a Strong Application

- **Capacity-building:** “Whatever is needed to bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, so it may more effectively and efficiently advance its mission into the future. Capacity building is not a one-time effort to improve short-term effectiveness, but a continuous improvement strategy toward the creation of a sustainable and effective organization.” – National Council of Nonprofits
- Opportunity to address pain points in operations to create long-term improvement
- Project areas typically include software upgrades, design projects, accessibility initiatives, special marketing efforts, development/fundraising efforts, distribution projects, staff/leadership training, succession planning, etc.

Building a Strong Application

Examples of projects might include:

- Marketing/promotional initiatives that reach new audiences
- Plans for website upgrades in order to facilitate more direct sales, audience growth, accessibility, etc.
- Skill-building opportunities for staff or board members
- Training for platforms that will improve sales/operations, such as Edelweiss, royalty tracking systems, customer management systems
- Research or strategy for fundraising initiatives
- Succession planning and implementation

Be realistic about what can be accomplished in 10-20 hours!

Finding a Consultant

- For CLMP members: Use the CLMP consultant database (<https://www.clmp.org/database/>)
- Get recommendations from other publishers
- Use existing contacts at other organizations
- Reach out to CLMP for help! (ckern@clmp.org)

Building a Strong Application

- For helpful information about applying to this and other grant opportunities, please consult the following CLMP resources:
- [How to Apply for Grants: Tips for Writing Successful Applications](#)
- [Examples of Previously Funded Projects](#)
- [Applying for Grants 101 Webinar](#) (for CLMP members)

Questions?

Visit <https://www.clmp.org/funding-for-publishers/professional-development-consulting-program/>

Email ckern@clmp.org

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