

Folk Arts Apprenticeships

Folk Arts Apprenticeship grants to individuals encourage cultural communities to continue passing on their valued traditions in traditional settings by providing stipends so that master folk artists and craftspersons can help apprentices develop greater skill. Since 1995 these modest grants have supported more than 100 apprenticeships in dozens of different cultural communities and scores of different art forms, reflecting the rich array of traditional arts in our state. Applications are available in winter with a deadline in the spring and awards announced in July.

Eligibility Criteria

- A master folk artist is someone who has learned a traditional art as part of community life and has attained a high level of excellence in the eyes of other community members. An apprentice is someone from the same cultural group who has demonstrated ability and commitment to learning and practicing the traditional art of the master.
- Apprentices must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of the grant application deadline and must be residents of New Jersey. Students enrolled in out-of-state educational institutions are eligible as long as they retain their NJ resident status. Verification of residency will be required. Apprentices are encouraged to work with master folk artists who are also residents of NJ whenever possible.
- Master and apprentices should be members of the same cultural group that shares identity based on religion, occupation, ethnicity, language or location and have learned the art or craft in traditional community settings rather than formal public institutions.
- Apprenticeships are eligible for funding for a second year. Second-year applicants must include a description and support materials that demonstrate the progress made during the first year of the apprenticeship.
- Apprentices who have received two consecutive years of Council Apprenticeship funds may not reapply to the program for three years.

For more information please see the complete [Program Guidelines and Application](#)