

2025 Japan Foundation New York Grant for U.S.-Japan Community Grassroots Exchange Program Guidelines

I. Description

Japan Foundation (JF) recognizes the value of cultural exchange on the grassroots level to deepen mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan. This program aims to support the creation or/and expansion of Japan-themed programming and activities for local communities and beyond.

Proposed programming must be Japan-related; however, the types of events may vary (e.g., in-person workshop, online lecture, etc.) as well as the topics (e.g. culture, business, professional development, Japanese Studies etc. excluding Japanese Language).

Additionally, JF values the sustainability and development of programming beyond JF support. A project that includes the establishment of a new position to design and implement the Japan-related programming through this grant program will be given higher priority.

Japanese Studies departments at U.S. universities and U. S. based nonprofit organizations with 501(c) (3) status that promote grassroots cultural exchange are welcome to apply.

II. Requirements

Projects are required to include the following:

- Minimum of 10 or more events, such as a series of lectures, seminars, workshops, or activities that support dialogue and networking during the project period;
- Project length can be no longer than twelve (12) months;
- Projects must begin between September 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. Preparation for the events may be included in the grant period;
- A minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the total project budget must be secured from non-JF sources such as the applying institution, a collaborating institution, and/or other sources.

III. Priorities

Projects with one or more of the following qualities will be prioritized:

- Demonstration of impact on targeted communities and tangible outcomes;
- Demonstration of fresh and innovative outreach activities;
- Sustainability plan that is clearly articulated and extends well after JF support:

- Attention towards underserved areas of the Midwest, South, and Mountain states as well as non-traditional audiences that have not been previously exposed to Japanese culture and topics;
- Projects proposed by or involving collaboration with a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and/or Community College;
- Projects that collaborate with larger community in the region (K-12, universities, museums, businesses, Japan-related organizations, organization/institution in Japan etc.).

Proposals that are the same or very similar to previously supported projects will be given a lower priority. Additionally, ongoing projects will be given a lower priority unless a new aspect to the programming is demonstrated, such as expanding audience reach or increasing offerings.

IV. Eligibility

Higher education institutions in the United States with Japanese Studies and/or Japanese language programs and organizations that promote grassroots cultural exchange between the U.S. and Japan.

Organizations must have 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.

The following organizations are not eligible:

- JOI host sites for Year 22 (2024-2026) and Year 23 (2025-2027)
- Japan America Societies/ Japan Societies

JF will not consider proposals for the following:

- Commercial activities;
- Political activities, election campaigns, or religious activities;
- Activities in support of specific doctrines or claims;
- Language education programs.

*For Japanese Language education grants, please contact the Japan Foundation, LA.

V. Grant Coverage

The grant amount is up to \$30,000 and inclusive of indirect costs. Amounts will be decided after reviewing the project in terms of scale and necessity. Grant coverage is for up to 12 months.

- Personnel (staff salary) & Honoraria (speaker etc.)
- Travel (transportation costs) and Per Diem (hotels and meals)
- Conference Costs (room rental, AV equipment rental etc.)
- Report & Publication Costs (printing costs, etc.)

JF will support indirect costs of up to ten percent (10%) of the actual direct costs JF supports. A minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the total project budget must be secured from non-JF sources such as the applying organization, a collaborating institution, and/or other sources.

JF will not consider the following items for support:

- Capital fund and endowment drives, debt reduction, or the creation or support of awards or grants;
- Operating costs unrelated to the project being supported;
- Design, construction, or maintenance of buildings or monuments;
Procurement of equipment (including software) or purchase of land.

VI. Application and Review Process

Full proposals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, 2025 (EST) through JFNY website.

JFNY Website: <https://ny.jpf.go.jp/grants/grants-for-global-partnerships/grant-for-u-s-japan-community-grassroots-exchange-program/>

For the application submission process, please see the instructions below.

If you have any questions, please contact GEEprogram@jpf.go.jp

All applicants will be notified the review result around late August 2025.

VII. Grant Application Instructions

Grant Applications must be submitted through our online application portal. Complete the form and upload the required attachments.

Grant Application Form

(1) Applicant Information

- **Name of Submitting Institution**
- **Legal Status:** Submissions will only be accepted from higher education institutions in the United States with Japanese Studies and/or Japanese language programs, and organizations that promote grassroots cultural exchange between the U.S. and Japan with 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.
- **Official Website of Submitting Institution**

- **Authorized Representative:** The authorized representative is the individual within the applying institution who is legally responsible for administering grant funds.
- **Project Director:** The project director is the individual responsible for the content and status of the project.

* The Authorized Representative and Project Director cannot be the same individual.

(2) Project Information

- **Title of Project**
- **Project Description:** Please provide a concise summary of the project.
- **Collaborating or Participating Organizations and Individuals**
- **Proposed Grant Period:** Please keep in mind that JF grant funds must be expended during the grant duration, which includes preparation through implementation. The Grant Period can be up to 12 months.
- **Project Cost:** Indicate the Total Project Cost (including in-kind contributions and the Amount Requested from JFNY), as well as the date by when funds are required.
- **Previous JFNY, JFLA, or Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership Grants:** Include the name of the project(s), the project reference number(s), the amount of the award(s), and the date(s) received. If you haven't received any grants from these entities before, please write "N/A"

Attachments

- A. Narrative Description of the Project**
- B. Detailed Budget (use JF excel template)**
- C. Curricula Vitae for the Project Director and the JF supported staff member**
- D. Organization Information Form**
- E. Proof of 501(c)(3) status**
- F. Institutional Information**

The maximum size for all attachments combined is 25 MB. Please note that files with certain extensions (such as ".exe", ".com", ".vbs", or ".bat") cannot be uploaded.

A. Narrative Description of the Project: The following must be included:

1. Project Objectives: Please describe the goals and significance of the proposed project. In addition, please describe the organization's needs and how this grant would help meet these needs.

2. Project Methodology: Please be as specific as possible when describing project methodology including timeline, a list of the 10 events (minimum) and each event summary planned for the project period including information on the type of event, when the event will be taking place, participants, intended audience, expected audience size, and a job description if the grant fund is requested to cover personnel costs.

3. Participating Organizations and Individuals: Please specify the names, affiliations, and titles of all proposed participants. Please explain the role of each individual involved in the project as well as the rationale for including these individuals.

4. Dissemination Plan: Please describe clear publicity plan for outreach activities which includes the method of dissemination (for example, specific social media platforms).

5. Anticipated Outcomes: Please explain the expected impact and outcome, and describe quantifiable accomplishments of the project. Additionally, please describe viable sustainability plan after JF support concludes.

6. Status of Preparation: Please explain any research and/or work done in preparation for the project prior to proposal submission.

7. Benchmarks: Please include clear benchmarks and plans for evaluating the project.

B. Detailed Project Budget: Please use the JF budget template to detail the expected expenditures and income for the project. Please include in-kind donations and funds from other sources including those from the applying institution. A minimum of 20% of project costs must come from other sources.

C. Curricula Vitae: Curricula vitae for the project director and the JF-supported staff member (if the JF-supported staff is a new hire, this may be submitted when employment begins).

D. Organization Information Form: Please fill out the JF form to provide details about your organization's Board Members, Staff, Membership, Financial Information, and Regular

Programming. Annual reports of 2023 and 2024 or other pertinent information about the applying institution should be attached.

E. Proof of 501(c)(3) Status: A copy of the official IRS determination letter stating the submitting institution has 501(c)(3) status must be included.

F. Institutional Information: Please submit annual reports from 2023 and 2024 or other pertinent information about the applying institution.

Additional Grant Information

■ Regulations and Laws

Grant programs of JF are operated in accordance with the relevant regulations and laws of the Japan Foundation.

JF is intolerant of any fraudulent activity from the application process through the grant duration. Once a grant has been provided, committing any form of fraud with regard to JF grant funds could result in penalty measures such as revocation of decision to provide a grant in whole or in part, request return of rescinded portions of the grant including late payment charges, suspension of the application for a certain period of time, and/or other legal actions (Ref. “Act on Regulation of Execution of Budget Pertaining to Subsidies, etc.” (Act No. 179 of 1955)).

■ Obligations

The Grantee shall acknowledge JF’s financial support when the Grantee produces any materials related to the Grant Project such as publicity materials (e.g. websites, catalogs, posters, flyers, etc.), conference materials, books, videos, etc.

The Grantee shall include the designated quantity of publicity materials and deliverables to JF with the Final Report.

The Grantee shall submit the Interim Project Report after 6 months and the Final Project Report and the Financial Report when the project has been completed.

■ Disclosure of Information

When a request for information, based on the “Act on Access to Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies” (Act No. 140 of 2001) is received, materials such as submitted application forms will be disclosed (unless stipulated by law as not to be disclosed). Japanese law requires that all material submitted to JF be subject to public disclosure after the screening process is completed, with the exception of personal information.

Information concerning projects that we support, such as the name of the grantees and project descriptions, will be made public in the Annual Report, on the website, and in other public relations materials of the Japan Foundation.

■ Access to Personal Information

JF handles personal information appropriately in accordance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information Held by Incorporated Administrative Agencies, etc." (Act No. 59 of 2003) (the "Law") and other applicable laws. Details of the Japan Foundation's privacy policy can be reviewed at the following website:

<http://www.jpfn.go.jp/e/privacy>

JF provides the information (including the personal information) given by the applicants on the application form, attached documents, project reports and deliverables (including without limitation, photographs taken during or prior to this program) (the "Information") to outside consultants in the screening process and the projects evaluation.

For projects that we support, details of the personal information such as the names of the authorized representative, project director and other key participating individuals will be made public along with the project information in the Annual Report, on the website, and in other public relations materials of the Japan Foundation.

There may be other cases in which JF uses the personal information written on the application form:

- To send public relations materials of other Japan Foundation activities.
- To send questionnaires after the project has ended.
- To seek professional comments on the relevant fields.

The Information may be used or provided for purposes other than those listed in items above, in the cases provided under Article 9, Paragraph 2 of the Act, such as cases where such Information is provided to a government agency, an independent administrative institution, a local government or a local independent administrative institution (the "Government Agency, etc.") which uses such Information to the extent necessary for executing its duty or business stipulated by the laws and regulations and where there are reasonable grounds for using the Information.

Applicants are requested to inform all individuals whose personal information appears on the application materials that the above-mentioned policy shall also apply to those individual's personal information. By applying to this program, participants agree to the use of personal information for the above-mentioned policy.