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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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○ **What is a third-party recommender?**

A third-party recommender is an arts organization that administers the Exhibition Assistance program on behalf of the OAC. Each recommender receives a budget allocation in June to use towards distributing Exhibition Assistance grants. They review applications and make grant decisions on behalf of the OAC.

○ **What are the deadlines for Exhibition Assistance?**

The program is open from June until February. Each recommender determines its own deadlines or may accept applications on an on-going basis until its funds are spent. You can find this information on OAC's website.

○ **My exhibition is taking place when the Exhibition Assistance program is closed (March – May). Can I still apply to a recommender and receive a grant?**

Some recommenders will accept applications while the program is closed. Please check with the particular recommender to see if they will do so. In all cases you must submit your application to the recommender before the opening date of your exhibition. The recommender will make grant decisions after they have received notice of their allocation from the OAC in June.

○ **How do I find out what a recommender is interested in funding?**

Please refer to the *Recommenders – Detailed Information* document on OAC's website to find out about the types of art practices each recommender is interested in funding. You could also call the recommender directly or check their website.

○ **I have applied to a recommender but have not yet received results of their decision. What do I do?**

Please contact the recommender to find out about the status of your application. Some recommenders establish deadlines and will not review applications until after the deadline has past.

○ **Does the recommender issue the grant cheque to me?**

No. The OAC will process the grant cheque and mail it to you.

○ **Once I receive results from the recommender, how long will it take for me to receive my Exhibition Assistance grant?**

Grant cheques are usually issued by the OAC three or four weeks after we have received your approved application from the recommender.

- **Are group exhibitions eligible?**

Yes. Your exhibition costs must be a minimum of \$500 per artist and each artist must apply separately.

- **Can my exhibition take place outside Ontario?**

Yes. Your exhibition can take place anywhere in the world.

- **My upcoming exhibition is not taking place in my zone of residence. Do I apply to a recommender from my zone of residence or to a recommender from the zone where my exhibition is taking place?**

You must apply to a recommender in your zone of residence regardless of the location of your exhibition. However, if you are Photography, Aboriginal, Francophone or Craft artist you also have the option of applying to a specialized recommender that may be located in another zone.

- **I am an Aboriginal artist. Am I only eligible to apply to a specialized recommender?**

No. You can apply to either a specialized recommender or one from your zone of residence. This also applies to Photography, Francophone and Craft artists.

- **Should I apply to a recommender that exhibits the same type of work I do?**

Not necessarily. Some recommenders fund a wide range of work. You may wish to apply to a recommender who is knowledgeable about the type of work you do. Please refer to the List of Recommenders for more detailed information about recommender specialties.

- **Does my exhibition have to take place in an art gallery?**

No. Your exhibition can take place in any location that is accessible to the public providing that it is advertised and open to the public during specific hours. Ineligible locations include private homes or private clubs.

- **My exhibition is not taking place at one of the recommender galleries. Am I still eligible?**

Yes. Your exhibition does not have to take place in a recommender gallery.

- **Can I submit my support material on a CD or DVD?**

Since each recommender will have access to different audio-visual resources, it is advisable to contact them directly to find out.

- **Can I apply for travel to attend my exhibition opening?**

No. You can only apply for travel costs if you are a performance artist or if you are required to install your work in a site-specific exhibition.

- **Do I have to submit a final report?**

Yes. If you receive an Exhibition Assistance grant a final report form will be included with your notification letter, or you can download the form from the OAC website.

- **I have received an Exhibition Assistance grant but my exhibition is not taking place. What do I do?**

Please contact staff from the Visual Arts office as soon as possible. You may be required to repay all or part of your grant.