



## Dancer Microgrant Application FAQ

**Q: What is the goal of this dancer microgrant?**

**A:** DWC is committed to supporting the growth of early career dancers even as the organization sunsets. Team DWC encourages artists to reach for development that is on the horizon by offering microgrants to support tuition-based professional development opportunities for Chicago and Chicago-land based dancers.

**Q: What is the residency requirement for this microgrant?**

**A:** This microgrant is designed to #SupportLocal. Dancers must be current residents of Chicago or live within 60 miles of the city limits and be eligible to work in the US as of March 4, 2026.

Please note the following:

- Chicago-based = reside in Chicago
- Reside in Chicago = have a commitment to live in the city full-time
- Going to school / dancing in a project / visiting family here and living somewhere else does not meet the residency requirement

**Q: Is there an age requirement for *ND NH*?**

**A:** Yes, applicants should be between 18-30 years of age as of Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

**Q: Is there a cut off date/time for this application?**

**A:** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, meaning as they are submitted. The application portal will close at 5pm CT on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, or sooner, if funds are exhausted. Decisions on applications will be made within 14 days of receipt of each application.

**Q: How will payment be handled for this microgrant?**

**A:** Each grantee will receive an award of up to \$500 via check. The applicant will have 14 days following award of grant to submit documentation showing proof of payment. Payment will be issued to applicant within 7 days of receipt of proof of payment. All payments will be made before July 31, 2026.

**Q: Can dancers with a previous relationship with DWC apply for this microgrant?**

**A:** Yes, Chicago-based dancers, including those who have a past relationship with DanceWorks Chicago are eligible. Previous affiliation has no bearing on the award decision.

**Q: Is this microgrant looking to support dancers in specific dance styles/genres?**

**A:** No, professional development support for all dance forms is available. DWC is committed to lifting up a diverse group of dancers that work in a variety of different dance styles/genres. There isn't any one particular style favored over another.

**Q: What can be supported through this microgrant?**

**A:** Requests for funding should be in support of a dance / dance-adjacent educational offering, which can be in-person or digital and take place anywhere in the world.

**Examples of what *can* be supported through this microgrant:**

- Dance writing
- Dance photography
- Costume design for dance
- Arts administration for dancers
- Stage makeup for dance artists
- Archiving for dance
- Note: Payment from the applicant must go to an organization that is committed to dance / dance-related practice, process, performance and cover dance / dance-related expenses. Support from DWC will come in the form of reimbursement via check.

**Examples of what *cannot* be supported through this microgrant:**

- Dance master class series, workshop, summer intensive less than five days.
- Offerings which do not center the applicant's pursuit of knowledge in dance / dance-adjacent pathways.
  - Examples: study of French to master ballet terminology, financial literacy to learn to budget
- Note: Application fees, travel expenses, lodging costs, etc. are not eligible expenses for purposes of this microgrant.

**Q: What are the points that DWC will be evaluating applications for?**

- Eligibility: applicant and offering
- Impact on applicant
- Clarity around goals for learning
- Appropriateness of funding request amount
- Compelling / Authentic Good Dance Citizen example

**Q: Is documentation of the recipient's experience requested?**

**A:** Yes, DWC will assemble a digital scrapbook shining a light on microgrant recipients. Each grantee is requested to submit photo documentation featuring the element of your experience for which you received support. The due date is to be mutually agreed upon between grantee and DanceWorks Chicago, with the latest due date being July 31, 2026, unless otherwise arranged.

- Examples:
  - Support was received for tuition relief for a summer program. Share photos of you in class, talking with workshop leaders, etc.
  - Support was received to participate in a one-week, online dance archiving seminar. Share before and after photos of an archiving project.

**Q: To whom do I reach out if I have a question?**

**A:** Email inquiries may be sent to Co-founder and Artistic Director Julie Nakagawa:

[jnakagawa@danceworkschicago.org](mailto:jnakagawa@danceworkschicago.org). Please include your name\_Microgrant inquiry in the subject line.