

**SAA Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
May 19 & 20, 2025
Virtual Meeting**

**NDRFA Review Committee
(Prepared by Janet Carlton, Chair, NDRFA Review Committee)**

SAA National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives:

Potential language for expanding charge/criteria

- *Very drafty language/questions pulled from the [4/24/25 forum discussion](#) to be shared with the Foundation Board at its May meeting, in context with strategic plan item to potentially expand NDRFA.*
- *Should we expand the date range to 18 months in general?*
- *Should we keep it 6 months, but set up \$ for follow up requests, up to 18 months after?*

Comments from the April 24, 2025, committee discussion

- I like the idea of **extending the period to 18 months** preferred and other applications considered if funding allows. We have not had a lot of applications to this fund, probably in part because of the time period limitation.
- It seems to me like a **6 month time period** comes from a place of privilege from us in the continental United States, where we can expect a much better response from our (shared!) government.
- the work NARA does with FEMA and DOI **emphasizes stabilizing** materials in that **initial post disaster salvage period**, not so much actually treating them. That would pretty much translate to just funding transportation, refrigeration, and maybe some vendor work.
- However, I do feel that for most disasters, we should probably **keep a set time-frame** for the proposals, perhaps longer than we have had in the past, but I think an emphasis on the immediate recovery efforts is still important. Getting rid of any time frame I think will confuse applicants. Maybe saying that we still favor applications that are sent within the **first 18 months** (just an example time) of a disaster but we will also consider those older than these as well?
- This is probably more realistic of institutions to need money **after that 6 month** salvage period, when they can more thoughtfully deal with how to individually clean, house, etc.
- I don't think we should have the **6-month deadline**, anyway, since most disaster recovery takes much longer.

- I do like how this project would **bridge over to another hopeful grant funding** from CLIR. It's an example of aiming to do disaster recovery with an eye towards increasing access and long term preservation of the collection and its content.
- If there's money available, I would think **it would serve to go beyond the 6 months**. If at any time money is very restricted, it may serve best to keep it only for stabilizing the collections.

Background

(email from Astoria 4/24/2025, in forum thread)

The Board of Directors is in the process of updating the Foundation's Strategic Plan, with final goals and tactics scheduled for review and approval at the May meeting. As part of this effort, the potential expansion of the NDRFA grant program will also be discussed **is already on the Board's radar in the draft Strategic Plan for 2025-2028 (currently stated as: Expand the NDRFA emergency relief fund -- Finding more ways to fund and expand the scope)**

This application presents a timely opportunity **for the NDRFA committee** to consider and recommend adjustments to the program. Lisa recommends the NDRFA committee takes the time now to outline the change of scope the committee wants the Board consider and prepare an agenda item for the Board to review and discuss, which includes pros and cons of any recommended changes. The important part is that the recommendations are fully vetted by the committee before coming to the Board for consideration.

Points of consideration:

- Extend the eligibility window from six months to eighteen months post-disaster.
- Establish a dedicated fund allowing previous recipients to apply for a post-recovery second grant.
- Remember that we are heading into wildfire and severe storm seasons, and that there may be repositories who have already been affected by past events that have not even had a moment to consider what they might need, and those requests could begin at any time.

Links

- <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/saa-foundation-board-of-directors/saa-foundation-board-of-directors-mtg-agenda-may-19-20-20-0>
- <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/saa-foundation-board-of-directors/national-disaster-recovery-fund-for-archives>