



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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NHC initiative focuses on state's aging population

The Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) has announced a new program emphasis, "Growing Older in Nebraska," which explores the continued aging of Nebraska's population despite the influx of young immigrant and refugee families and the baby-boom ripple effect.

According to Mary Yager, NHC senior program officer, the program emphasis could not be more timely. "Earlier this month, AARP celebrated its 50th anniversary, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission made zoning changes for retirement homes, and the Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center announced that the health-care workforce is aging and will need to be replaced, possibly at the rate of three for every two people retiring, due to lifestyle differences of younger generations."

The NHC encourages non-profit organizations to submit grant proposals for the purpose of better responding to the challenges and opportunities of aging through public programs involving the humanities. Humanities disciplines include history and the social sciences, literature and languages, philosophy, ethics and jurisprudence, and religious and artistic traditions.

NHC will give priority to grant applications that address a variety of issues, including encouraging intergenerational community conversations about issues relegated to aging, developing public understanding that aging is a lifelong process, connecting elders and youngsters, and educating community planners about the physical needs of aging, what elders want, and how communities can respond.

"Growing Older in Nebraska" is part of a multi-year initiative exploring demographic changes that have impact in the state. Previous focus on new immigrant populations and the population shift from rural to urban and suburban communities both continues and complements issues of aging.

The NHC funds public programs such as conferences, exhibits, workshops, films, reading and discussion programs, and humanities-focused seminars for professionals that will have significant public impact. The council does not award grants to individuals, nor does it fund courses for academic credit, occupational training, travel to professional meetings, scholarships or fellowships, construction or renovation, creative or performing arts, political advocacy, book publishing, or operating and printing costs unrelated to a public project.

Grant policies, applications, deadlines, and additional information on "Growing Older in Nebraska" are found at www.nebraskahumanities.org. The NHC encourages interested non-profit organizations to contact Mary Yager for advice in developing a proposal. Organizations that are submitting their first proposal to the NHC are urged to consult early in their proposal planning. Mary can be reached at mary@nebraskahumanities.org or 402-474-2131 ext 103.

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