



Grassroots Grants Available

The Grassroots category of Kansas Arts Commission (KAC) grants contains opportunities for many Kansas communities. Understanding the various subcategories - who's eligible, when and how to apply - can lead to getting support for local arts programming. (Grassroots grants are just one of the KAC grants categories; the others are not being addressed in this article).

Three groups can access most Grassroots grants:

- Rural (population - under 20,000 FY96; under 25,000 FY97),
- Multi-cultural or cultural specific,
- Community service agencies targeting specific social groups.

The Grassroots category is not intended for use by those already receiving a Major Grant in the same year (exception - Rural Cultural Opportunities FY97).

There are still Grassroots funds available for use this fiscal year (FY96 ends June 30, 1996). Additionally, it's not too early to start planning for use of next year's Grassroots funds (FY97 is 7/1/96-6/30/97). To get a picture of the different Grassroots possibilities, refer to the chart on page 3.

NOW is the time to apply for funding to do a **Grassroots Activity** or use **Consultant/Technical Assistance** this coming winter, spring and early summer. These applications must be submitted at least six weeks ahead of the beginning use of funds; funds must be used by June 30, 1996. May 1, 1996 will be the last date an FY96 grant application can be submitted. If something is planned to span the two fiscal years, applications for the two parts (one for what will occur in each of the two years) are a possibility.

The KAC Grants Guidelines **FY97** are now available. There are three subcategories under Grassroots next year.

1. **Grassroots Cultural Activity FY97** is similar to the Grassroots Activity FY96.
2. **Grassroots Leadership Exchange FY97** could be described as a refinement of the Consultant/Technical Assistance subcategory offered this year; experienced personnel and arts agencies across the state have undergone training in preparation for serving as consultants to applicants in this subcategory in FY97.
3. **Grassroots Rural Cultural Opportunity Grants** are new FY97, and somewhat specific in eligibility, etc. (See more about Rural Opportunity Grants on page 2.) It is important to start NOW to consider this particular grant (Rural Cultural Opportunity) since the *application deadline is May 1, 1996*. A workshop on writing this grant will be held Feb. 17, 1996, in Salina.

Applications for both 1) Cultural Activity FY97 and 2) Leadership Exchange FY97 must be submitted at least six weeks ahead of use; they may be submitted earlier, but no funds will be awarded or made available until after July 1, 1996.

Assistance in preparing any KAC Grassroots Grant as well as clarification about how the program works is available from both ACAAK and KAC staff. Call either office with questions and requests: KAC - Phil Jones for rural and community service questions or Conchita Reyes for multi-cultural groups - phone (913) 296-3335/fax (913) 296-4989; ACAAK - Sharon Tally or Ellen Morgan - phone (913) 825-2700/fax (913) 823-1992. TTY via Kansas Relay Service: 1-800-766-3777.

Take advantage of Grassroots opportunities to further the arts in your community!