



NOAH Meetup Mini-Grant Program (2026)

Why We Changed This Program

In 2025, NOAH piloted a regional meetup model based on member requests. The goal was to distribute funding evenly across the country for in-person gatherings. While well-intentioned, member feedback made it clear that geographic regions created unnecessary barriers especially where communities naturally cross state lines.

For 2026, we've simplified the program to be open anywhere, first come, first served, and easy to access. Thanks to a generous donor, we have \$5,000 in total to distribute this year.

Program Overview

The NOAH Meetup Mini-Grant supports new, one-time, in-person gatherings intentionally organized to foster connection among NOAH members. We created this mini-grant program to support new, member-led gatherings - especially for people who might not otherwise have the resources to bring others together or attend the annual NOAH conference in person. Our goal is simple: to help members connect, share ideas, and strengthen community in ways that feel natural and locally driven.

These mini-grants are designed to support member-led meetups created specifically for the NOAH community. They are not intended to fund existing conferences, annual events, or ongoing programs.

Who: Any NOAH member

Where: Anywhere (no regions)

When: Rolling application, first come first served

Funding: \$500 per meetup (standard award)

Total Available: Up to 10 meetups (or until funds are exhausted)

Funding Amount (By Meetup Size)

Standard Award: \$500

For meetups with 10–25 attendees

Large Meetup Award: Up to \$1,000

For meetups with 26–50 attendees (requires brief justification)

\$500 should be considered the standard award. Larger requests are reserved for gatherings with higher costs due to size.

What the Grant Can Cover

Eligible reimbursable expenses may include:

- Food and beverages (non-alcoholic)
- Space or room rental
- Speaker or facilitator fees
- Basic event supplies

The mini-grant is meant to support the connection-centered components of a NOAH meetup. It is not designed to supplement expenses for existing conferences, annual events, or ongoing programs.

All grants are reimbursed after the event. NOAH does not provide upfront payments.

Eligibility Guidelines

To qualify, the meetup should:

- Be a standalone, member-organized gathering created specifically for the NOAH community
- Include a brief proposed agenda outlining the structure of the gathering and intentional connection time
- Be held in person
- Be free to attend
- Be open to NOAH members (nonmembers are also welcome)
- Be designed primarily to foster connection among participants

Additional guidelines:

- One mini-grant per organizer every other calendar year
- Applications must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the event
- Awarded funds must be used within the current calendar year

Meetups may take place at cultural institutions, community spaces, or other venues, provided the gathering is organized specifically as a NOAH meetup.

How to Apply (Rolling)

Applications are reviewed in the order received until funds are fully allocated.

1. [Submit the Mini-Grant Application Form](#)
2. Receive approval confirmation from NOAH staff
3. NOAH will add your event to the calendar and create a registration page

Once funds are fully allocated, the program will close for the year.

What NOAH Provides

NOAH will:

- Create a standard event registration page
- Add the event to the NOAH calendar

- Promote the event through NOAH channels
- Send organizers registrant lists leading up to the event
- Provide NOAH promotional materials to share at the event
- Send a short post-event survey to attendees

Organizers manage all on-site logistics.

After the Event

Within two weeks of the meetup, organizers submit:

- [A reimbursement form with receipts](#). This includes a brief event summary (attendance and highlights)

FAQ

What if fewer people show up than expected?

That's okay. Attendance can fluctuate. Reimbursement is based on actual expenses up to the approved amount.

What if more people show up than planned?

Please stay within your approved budget. If your event grows significantly, reach out to NOAH staff as soon as possible.

Can I get more than \$1,000?

No. \$1,000 is the maximum award for any single meetup.

Can I host more than one meetup?

Organizers may receive one mini-grant every other year to help ensure broad access across the membership.

Is funding guaranteed if I apply?

Funding is based on eligibility and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the \$5,000 total budget is exhausted.

Do I have to be a NOAH member to apply?

Yes. Organizers must be NOAH members. Events must be open to NOAH members to attend, though nonmembers may also join.

Program subject to change based on available funding and participation.

Questions? Email us at info@thenoah.org