

The Southern New England Apprenticeship Program (SNEAP) helps communities preserve their cultural knowledge by supporting teaching relationships between a mentor and apprentice. The program provides funding to cross-state apprenticeship teams from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, or Connecticut. The teaching and learning of traditional arts, trades, practices, or crafts helps sustain culture that is important to a community.

### APPLICATION SCHEDULE\*

Application window open	May 1, 2022
Application deadline	July 31, 2022
Notification date**	September 1, 2022
Time period covered (Including Public Presentation)	September 2022 – June 30, 2023
Mentor & apprentice final report due**	June 30, 2023

\*Please note that dates are subject to change

\*\*Awards will be distributed in two payments. The first at the signing of contracts, and the second after the submission of the final report to the SNEAP Manager.

### TO APPLICANTS:

Before filling out the application, it is important for both mentor and apprentice to talk about their ideas for this apprenticeship. Without shared understanding of what you plan to do issues can arise. Please note, SNEAP staff does not pair apprentices and mentors.

**NOTE:** If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact SNEAP Manager, Philitha Stemplys-Cowdrey or your state's program director. They are:

#### Connecticut

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS A SNEAP APPRENTICESHIP IN TRADITIONAL ARTS?

Apprenticeship is a process of learning traditional practices directly from a mentor. A mentor teaches a student apprentice in person, through regular, intensive, one-on-one instruction. Mentors teach skills, meaning, and proper use of a heritage art form (trade, practice, or craft) inside a community.

## WHAT KIND OF "ARTS" DOES THIS PROGRAM SUPPORT?

This program supports the learning of *living* cultural heritage forms that are important to communities. These traditional forms are expressions of community identity and values and are usually taught informally. These traditional forms can include performing arts, crafts, trade/occupational skills, and religious, seasonal, or ceremonial traditions.

Some examples of communities and traditional forms might include:

- Occupation: blacksmithing; mandolin making; hotrod car building; taxidermy
- Ethnicity: iconography; wampum-carving; traditional food-making; cultural wedding practices
- Community: lion dance; *santos*-carving; liturgical song; hip-hop

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR THIS GRANT?

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut residents may apply as mentors and apprentices with someone from one of the other states. A mentor and apprentice must apply together — *we do not assign apprenticeship teams*. Two mentors who wish to exchange knowledge with one another may also apply.

### Why is this program for Southern New England and not just Connecticut?

Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts share many different cultural communities. This program encourages cross-state connections by supporting mentors and apprentices to travel and teach across state lines.

### But I don't know anybody in another state! Can I apply anyway?

Get in contact with your state's program director (list above). They may have helpful suggestions.

### Do you ever fund same-state apprenticeships?

We consider same-state apprenticeships in Connecticut. For same-state apprenticeships in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, contact that state's program director (list above).

### Who is a mentor?

A mentor is someone who has practiced their traditional form for a long time, and who is recognized by their community as being an expert at what they do.

### Who is an apprentice?

An apprentice is someone who has the desire to learn new skills of a traditional form from a mentor. The apprentice learns cultural significance of this practice and is willing to carry the tradition forward.

### **Why don't you use the term "master"?**

We expect that our mentors have an expert skillset in their traditional practices and are experienced teachers who want to pass on their legacy. We acknowledge the word "master" has an array of meanings to our communities and feel that "mentor" is a more inclusive term.

### **Can a mentor have more than one apprentice?**

Sometimes a small group is appropriate to traditional practices. However, this is not a program that funds a mentor to teach a class. Each apprentice must fill out the "apprentice" portion of the application and submit support materials.

### **I'm from a different community or heritage group from my mentor or apprentice—is this a problem?**

The program favors applicants who share a common heritage. However, cultural art forms are frequently shared between groups, so please explain in your application how your apprenticeship might strengthen cross-community ties.

### **Will I need reference letters?**

Yes! You are to provide one or two letters of support from members of your community. These letters should describe the mentor's work and its importance to the community.

### **Can someone help me with my application?**

Of course! Please contact the SNEAP Manager, Philitha Stemplys-Cowdrey, at [philitha\\_stemplys-cowdrey@chs.org](mailto:philitha_stemplys-cowdrey@chs.org) or 860.236.5621 ext 201, to schedule a time to fill out the application in-person, virtually, or over the phone.

### **HOW LONG DOES THE APPRENTICESHIP LAST?**

Through the program, an apprenticeship can last as short a time as 3 months or as long as 10 months. For shorter, more intense timelines, consult with the SNEAP manager. (We strongly encourage the apprenticeship teams to continue their learning relationship outside of the official Apprenticeship Program.)

### **Can Mentors and Apprentices apply multiple times?**

Apprenticeship teams may apply for a second year when the application window is open. In fairness to newly formed apprenticeships, we ask teams who have participated in two consecutive years take one gap year before applying again.

### **HOW ARE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDEES DECIDED?**

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of folk and traditional art specialists, artists, community leaders, and tradition bearers. Decisions are made based on these criteria:

- Traditionality and artistic excellence of the mentor artist
- Apprentice's familiarity with the art form and commitment to continuing it
- Involvement of both mentor and apprentice in their community
- Effectiveness of the teaching plan
- Feasibility of the required public presentation
- Difficulty in finding a mentor or apprentice for this art form
- Balance of distribution of apprenticeships among traditions, communities, and geographic areas
- Flexibility/ability of teams to utilize distance-learning if needed

### **How will I know if I was selected for the apprenticeship?**

Applicants who are selected for the program will be notified by e-mail or phone call in early September of 2022.

## HOW MUCH IS AWARDED AND WHAT DOES IT PAY FOR?

The apprenticeship amount will be no more than \$3500 and no less than \$2000. Each year around six to eight mentor/apprentice pairs are selected. Most of this fee should go towards paying the mentor artist for their time. CHS manages contracts and carefully monitors all contracted work.

### When are payments made?

Awards will be distributed in TWO payments. The First at the signing of the contracts. The Second at the completion of the public presentation *and* submission of the final report to the SNEAP manager.

## TELL ME ABOUT DOCUMENTATION.

During the program, all apprenticeship teams will be visited and documented by the SNEAP manager or your state's program director. This includes interviews, photographs, and video. All participants will sign a release form but will have final say about what materials are kept. Please direct any questions to the SNEAP manager.

### Is a public presentation required?

Yes. Each apprenticeship team **MUST** organize a public presentation to share the results of the apprenticeship within their communities. Public activities may be in the form of a community festival, demonstration, performance, or an exhibit. This presentation must occur **BEFORE JUNE 30, 2023**. Please contact SNEAP manager if you need ideas for your presentation.

### Is there a final report?

Yes. Mentors and apprentices will be required to fill out a final report describing their experience and accomplishments.

### Is a background check required?

Per CHS policy, all contracted mentors will be required to give permission to undergo a background check. This is to ensure the utmost safety to everyone in the program. Results of the check will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Instances appearing on the report may not necessarily disqualify a mentor candidate from the program.

## DO MENTORS AND APPRENTICES HAVE TO MEET IN PERSON? (WHAT ABOUT COVID-19?)

We believe that the best teaching occurs in person. However, we care about your health. We will allow apprenticeships that are willing to try remote learning options if they do not feel safe in person.

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