ABOUT THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
The Archival Workers Emergency Fund (AWE Fund) Organizing Committee formed in March 2020 to organize aid for archival workers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. Since then, we have worked with the Society of American Archivists Foundation to establish the AWE Fund. Members of the organizing committee include Steven D. Booth, Jessica Chapel, Alison Clemens, Anna Clutterbuck-Cook, Jennifer Coggins, Courtney Dean, Steve Duckworth, Carady DeSimone, Rebecca Goldman, Irene Hauzinger, Katharina Hering, Hayley Hinsberger, Valencia Johnson, Carli Lowe, Bridget Malley, Sarah McLusky, Lydia Tang, Rebecca Thayer, Lauren White, Amy Wickner, and Katrina Windon.

ABOUT THE FUND
Applications to the AWE Fund are open. All archival workers are eligible. SAA membership is not required. Support up to $1,000 will be given. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis up to December 31, 2020. It is our goal to provide support to all qualifying applicants. The AWE Fund is a pilot program that will be re-evaluated in December 2020.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED
JOIN THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
We meet weekly on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. ET to coordinate development of the fund with the SAA Foundation. We have teams working to fundraise, share the stories of archival workers, and find ways to collaborate across our networks. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jessica Chapel and Lydia Tang at awefund@gmail.com.

SHARE YOUR STORY
Storytelling is a powerful tool in organizing for social justice. Personal stories help us understand how systemic, interlocking oppressions constrain individual lives and provide concrete examples of how people working together – in mutual aid – can break open those systems and build a more just future. We are seeking archival workers who have a story to tell about how a cash grant could address a concrete need in their lives and careers. We are gathering these stories to illustrate why the fund is necessary in this moment, and the positive impact a cash grant could have in a colleague’s life and career. If you would like to contribute to the #AWEfund Storytellers blog series, and/or have questions about the series, please contact the series coordinator, Anna Clutterbuck-Cook by filling out the form on the AWE Fund Storytellers blog.

DONATE
Provide a fellow archivist with tangible support from the archival community, and relieve some of the financial pressure of this historic moment. Donate through the SAA Foundation site on the Archival Workers Emergency Fund page. We encourage campuses, institutions, business, organizations, and other entities to create fundraisers or matching campaigns to support the fund. The Organizing Committee can answer questions, offer guidance, and connect you to the SAA Foundation. Contact us at awefund@gmail.com.

SPREAD THE WORD
Sharing this information throughout your networks, by email, social media, and even one-on-one conversations, can ensure we reach new applicants and new donors. You can also follow us on Twitter @AWEfund2020.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FROM THE SAA SITE)

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?
One-time grants of up to a maximum of $1,000 will be awarded to recipients. Grants will be awarded for as long as funding permits. All grant recipients will also receive a complimentary year-long SAA membership. If you have the means, please consider making a donation.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY “ARCHIVAL WORKER”?
To qualify for the fund, applicants should be able to demonstrate archival work performed in a repository, regardless of type. Qualifying work includes, but is not limited to reference and public services; records management; collections management; private family archives management; processing and description; digitization and metadata. See the Application Guidelines on the SAA site for more information.

DO I NEED TO BE A US CITIZEN TO APPLY?
No, but you must be able to provide a U.S. taxpayer identification number and complete a W-9 form to receive aid from the fund.

DO I HAVE TO BE AN SAA MEMBER?
No, SAA membership is not required to apply. If you are not an SAA member, you will be offered a complimentary one-year membership in SAA as part of your grant. Current SAA members who receive aid will also get a complimentary one-year extension to their membership.

IS THERE A DEADLINE TO APPLY?
Due to the unpredictability of the crisis and times of acute need, applications for the AWE Fund will be considered on a rolling basis through December 31, 2020.

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?
Applicants must provide a description of archival work experience and a statement of need. No other documentation is necessary. See the Application Guidelines on the SAA site for more information.

HOW WILL RECIPIENTS BE SELECTED?
Applications that are complete and meet eligibility criteria will be assessed by the AWE Fund Grant Review Committee according to an evaluation rubric.

WHEN WILL I HEAR ABOUT MY APPLICATION?
The review committee meets weekly to evaluate applications. You will receive a response to your application within 10 business days.

CAN I APPLY MULTIPLE TIMES?
To ensure that these funds reach as many individuals as possible, repeat applications will not be considered.

IF I RECEIVE A GRANT, WILL MY NAME AND INFORMATION BE MADE PUBLIC?
No. The SAA Foundation will maintain an internal list to ensure that applicants are not awarded multiple grants, but names of recipients will not be made public. You are, however, welcome to volunteer to share your story on the #AWEfund Storytellers blog.

HELPFUL LINKS
Read about the Organizing Committee’s ongoing work: https://awefund.wordpress.com/

Apply or donate to the fund: https://www2.archivists.org/groups/saa-foundation-board-of-directors/archival-workers-emergency-fund

AWE Fund Organizing Committee