Recordings at Risk is a national competition administered by CLIR for the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual content of high scholarly value through digital reformatting. The program is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Over four calls that run until September 2018 (see back for more detail), CLIR expects to award about $2.3 million to institutions holding audio, film, and video recordings of high scholarly value. An independent review panel, comprised of scholars in a variety of domains and technologists with expertise in digitization and digital preservation, will evaluate applications.

Recordings at Risk complements CLIR’s larger Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives initiative, which awards $4 million annually for larger projects focused on the digitization of rare and unique materials in any physical medium.

Program details are available at https://www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk.

Recordings at Risk encourages those professionals who may be constrained by limited resources and/or technical expertise to take action against the threats of degradation and obsolescence!

The program aims to help institutions:
- identify priorities and develop practical strategies for digital reformatting;
- build relationships with partners; and
- raise awareness of best practices.

How are proposals evaluated?
1. The potential scholarly and public impact of the proposed project.
2. The urgency of undertaking the reformatting to avoid risk of loss.
3. The viability of applicants’ plans for long-term preservation.
4. The overall cost-effectiveness of the proposals.
Recordings at Risk
2017-2018 At a Glance

Program Snapshot
Allowable requests: $10,000 - $50,000
Project terms: 3 - 12 months

The grant may fund up to 100% of the direct costs of audio reformatting services to be performed by the service provider.

Allowable costs within requests should be directly related to preservation reformatting of nominated materials and may include shipping and insurance.

Eligibility
Eligible applicants must be U.S. nonprofit academic, research, or cultural organizations. Please note that the organization and its collections must be located in the US.

Grants may be made to government units and their agencies or instrumentalities, provided that cultural heritage is the primary function of the unit and grant funds will be used for charitable purposes within the scope of the Recordings at Risk program. Grants may also be made to federally recognized tribal governments.

Program Timeline
January 4, 2017: Pilot call opens
March 3, 2017: application deadline
April 30, 2017: awards announced

June 1, 2017: Second call opens
July 31, 2017: application deadline
October 31, 2017: awards announced

December 1, 2017: Third call opens
February 9, 2018: application deadline
April 30, 2018: awards announced

May 1, 2018: Fourth call opens
June 29, 2018: application deadline
September 28, 2018: awards announced

Resources
Information for applicants, including recordings of past webinars and the application guidelines: https://www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk/for-applicants

Digitizing Special Formats Wiki: https://wiki.diglib.org/Digitizing_Special_Formats

Related Grant Programs: https://www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk/for-applicants/related-grant-programs

Contact Us
Questions about the program? Send a message to: recordingsatrisk@clir.org.