

NWCT ARTIST EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND



NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Berkshire Taconic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TSB Torrington
Savings Bank

Thank you so much for your support of the NWCT Artist Emergency Relief Fund. The arts industry continues to be one of the hardest hit, and artists are struggling to navigate the complex unemployment application process. While arts organizations are focused on keeping their doors open, we have turned our efforts towards helping their employees and contractors who have lost work, as well as many self-employed workers.

This report outlines some data that has been collected from the Relief Fund applicants. This data shows the diverse set of challenges and needs that arts industry workers are facing. We have received applications from **51 artists from 13 towns** around the region. They represent **arts educators, performing artists, musicians, commercial artists, fine artists, and artisans** who rely on craft fairs to sell their work.

One of the most alarming findings from the data is that **73% of applicants are not receiving unemployment** and **31% of applicants reported being housing insecure**. Thanks to your organization, we were able to award grants to **21 artists in dire need of support**.

Sincerely,
Steph Burr
Executive Director
Northwest Connecticut Arts Council

NWCT Artist Relief Fund

Overall Applicant Data (7/29/20)

NWCT
ARTS
COUNCIL



82%

Have lost part or full time work



77%

Unsure when they will make income again.



31%

Have medical expenses for an underlying condition.



31%

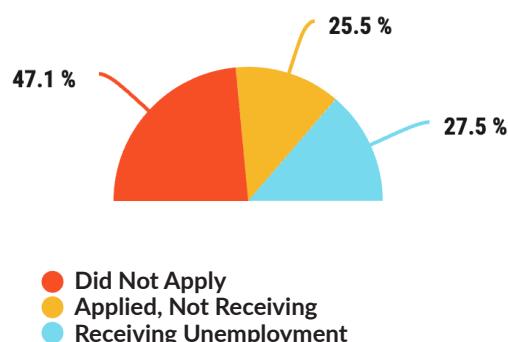
Have no financial safety net.



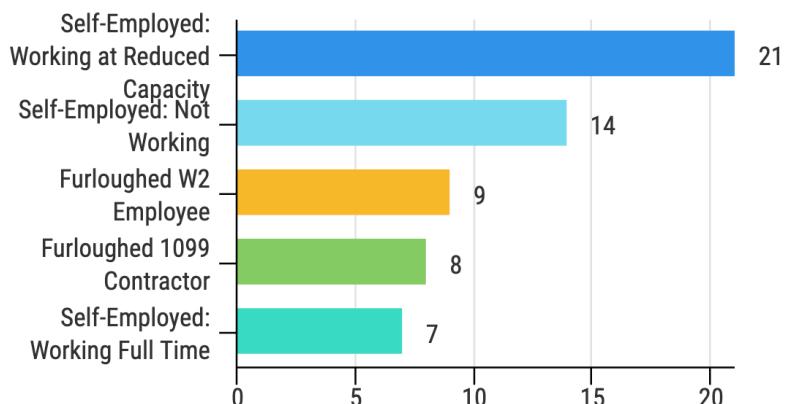
7%

Do not have health insurance.

Unemployment Status



Current Working Status



Immediate Concerns

Immediate concerns identified as "dire financial emergencies": the lack or imminent endangerment of essentials such as housing, medicine, childcare, and food.



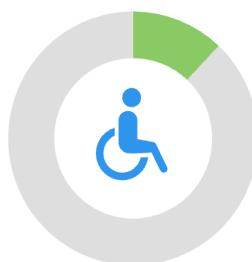
Housing (unable to pay rent or maintain a steady or safe living situation): **31.4%**



Food (unable to buy groceries): **21.6%**



Medical (unable to procure necessary medications for pre-existing or current conditions): **15.7%**



Care Taking (unable to afford to care for dependents, which could include children, elders, or other loved ones): **11.8%**

The Artist Emergency Relief Fund was made possible by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund, the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and the Torrington Savings Foundation.

NWCT Artist Relief Fund

Recipient Data (7/29/20)

**NWCT
ARTS
COUNCIL**



100%

Have lost part or full time work



77%

Unsure when they will make income again.



38%

Have medical expenses for an underlying condition.



48%

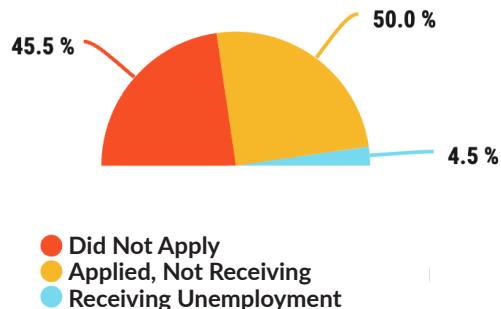
Have no financial safety net.



3%

Do not have health insurance.

Unemployment Status



Current Working Status



Immediate Concerns

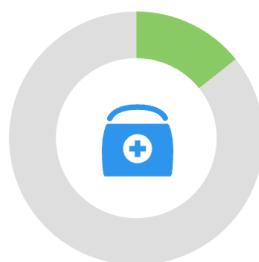
Immediate concerns identified as "dire financial emergencies": the lack or imminent endangerment of essentials such as housing, medicine, childcare, and food.



Housing (unable to pay rent or maintain a steady or safe living situation): **57.1%**



Food (unable to buy groceries): **23.8%**



Medical (unable to procure necessary medications for pre-existing or current conditions): **14.3%**



Care Taking (unable to afford to care for dependents, which could include children, elders, or other loved ones): **14.3%**

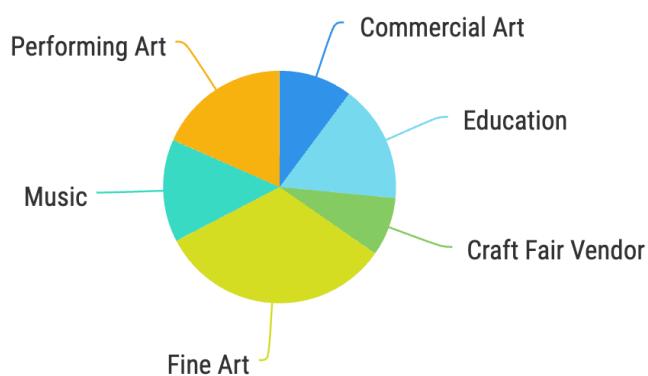
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NWCT Artist Relief Fund

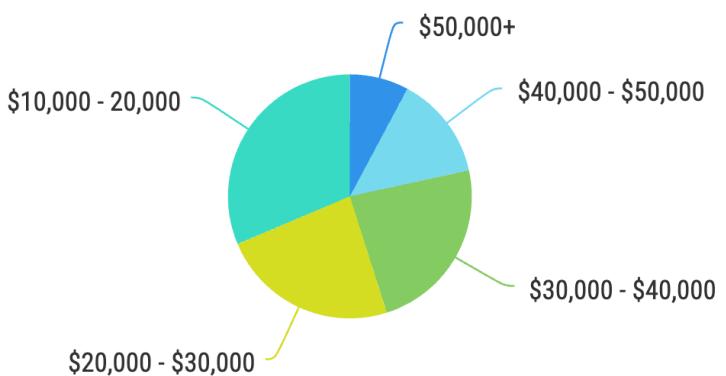
Overall Applicant Data (7/29/20)

**NWCT
ARTS
COUNCIL**

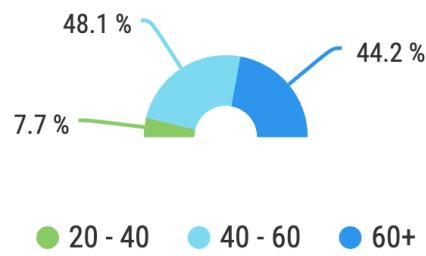
Industry



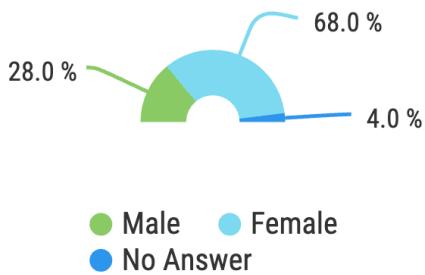
Annual Income



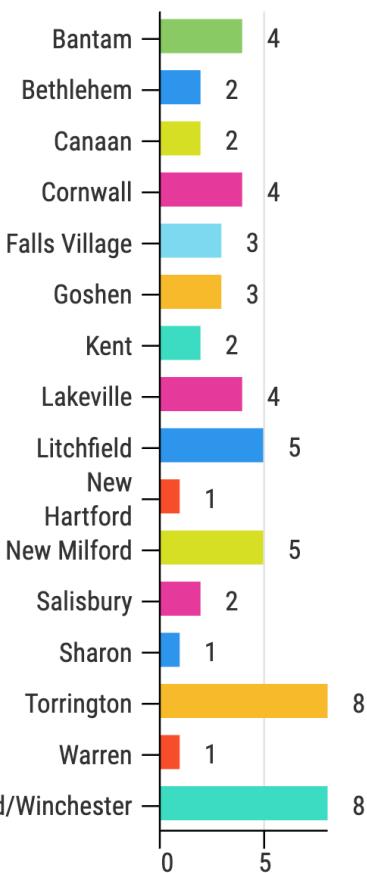
Age



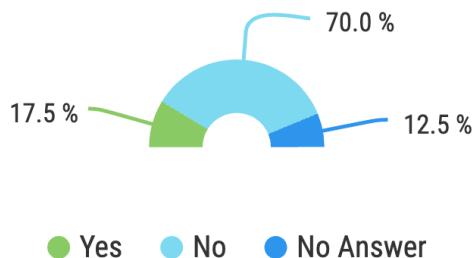
Gender



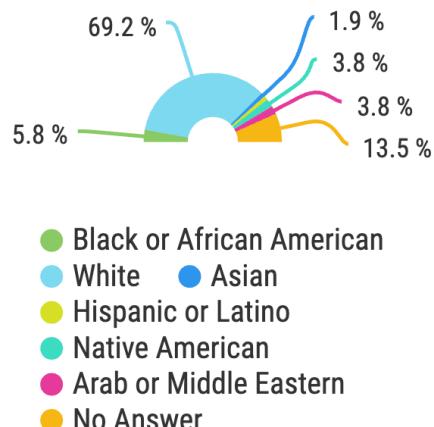
Town



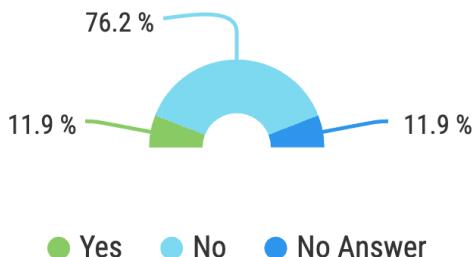
LGBTQIA+



Racial Identity



Disabled



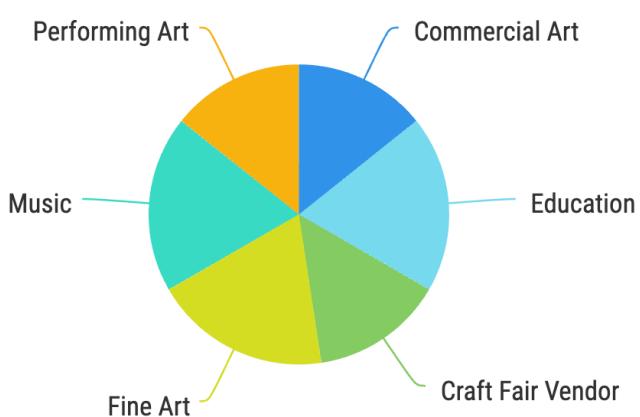
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NWCT Artist Relief Fund

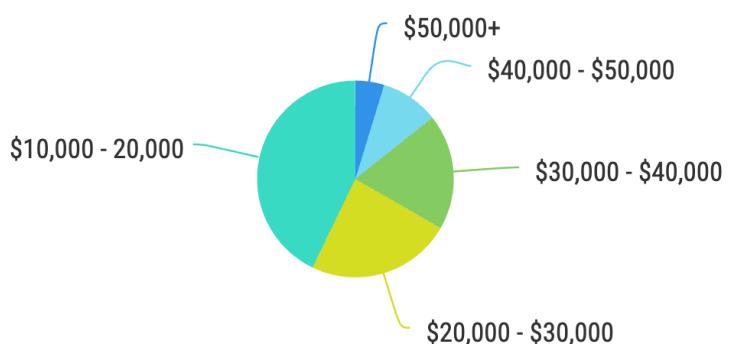
Recipient Data (7/29/20)

**NWCT
ARTS
COUNCIL**

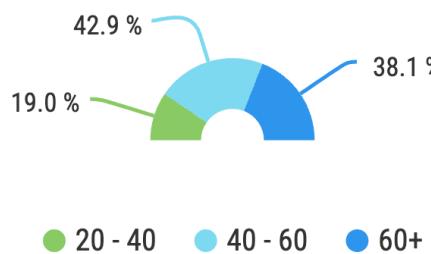
Industry



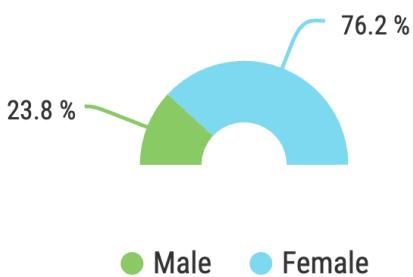
Annual Income



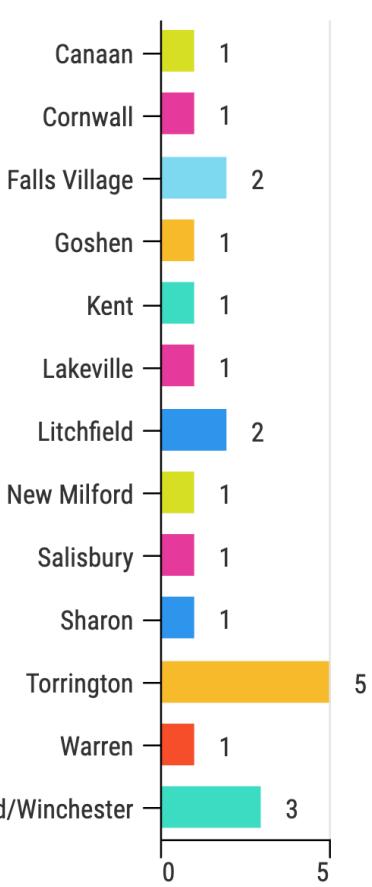
Age



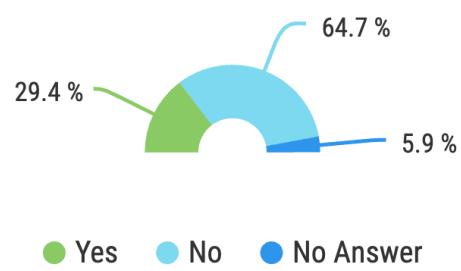
Gender



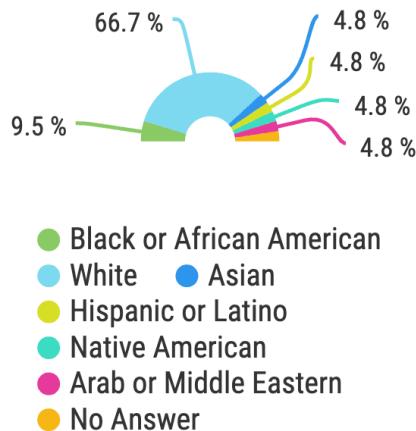
Town



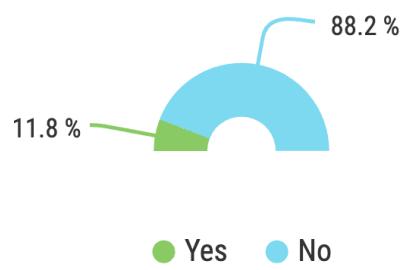
LGBTQIA+



Racial Identity



Disabled



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Stories

Here are stories from some of the individuals to whom your donors have helped us provide support.

"I demonstrate and get paid by state and county fairs, and also sell my wares at shows. I have had 6 months of contracts cancelled. I am concerned the next 5 this year will probably be cancelled also. I cannot apply for unemployment as I work in several other states that I do not live in. So even though I have 1099s for last year, they do not fit each state's guidelines as I live in CT." - **Potter**

"The studio I was teaching out of was closed due to the virus and I have been out of work since 03/13/2020. I have been unable to teach or perform for three months now, rendering me with no income." - **Independent Dance Choreographer**

"I've sold some work but only about 20% of what I did in the last quarter of 2019. I am approaching a point of financial distress." - **Fine Artist**

"In February I had 44 voice students and contracts for two opera in Europe this fall. After March 20 my student load dropped to 20 (only those who wanted to learn virtually) and the operas were cancelled. My income is approximately one third of what it was prior to the pandemic." - **Professional Opera Singer / Voice Teacher**

"Because of the closing of my studio building, and my reluctance to go back during quarantine, I was not able to continue working. I basically pivoted from a 900 sq. ft. studio, equipped with all kinds of media, tools, visual resources, easels, etc. to my kitchen table." - **Fine Artist**

"I make my living as a full time artist, selling my work at high end craft fairs across the country. My shows traditionally start in mid March. As of today, all my scheduled shows for 2020 have been cancelled through November, and I have had no venues for selling, at all. Unfortunately, my work sells best in person, and my website does not generate enough sales to live on." - **Artisan**

"As a choral director, voice teacher and singer, I have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. No choirs will be singing together for the foreseeable future, all voice lessons/workshops have cancelled and, although I have presented some online singing, it is on a volunteer basis, certainly not a way to create a job." - **Choral Director / Voice Teacher**

"As a pit musician at the Warner Theatre I was booked to play all through the 2020 season. Sadly we were getting ready to open Dogfight right when Covid-19 hit. I was also already working on the score for The Producers at The Warner - another show that I worked on but won't get paid for. I am having trouble paying rent right now." - **Musician**

"I work for a small record label. We had planned a 30 date nationwide tour of the States over the course of 6 weeks. All of the dates have been indefinitely postponed because of covid." - **Graphic Designer**

"My biggest concern at this time is keeping the apartment that I live in. The situation has become very tense because the lease is up for renewal August 1 and the landlord has the idea that he could get more if he rented to someone from New York. I will have to come up with a deposit on another apartment and it will be much harder to find an affordable place because of the pandemic and people who moved to the area from New York, the cost of housing is inflated." - **Fine Artist**

Special thanks to everyone who has supported the NWCT Artist Emergency Relief Fund.