



Indiana Arts Commission Arts Project Support (APS) Program Guidelines For Fiscal Year 2027

Program Overview

What is Arts Project Support: Arts Project Support (APS) grants provide funding to support a public-facing short-term arts project or a series of arts activities. Examples include performances; exhibits; arts festivals; arts and cultural planning; arts learning for specific populations such as older adults or youth; public art or some other arts-based or arts-serving activity.

Who Can Apply: 501(c)(3) Organizations, 501(c)(6) Tourism Entities or Chambers of Commerce, Units of Government, Libraries, K-12 Schools, and Colleges and Universities (see Page 4 for a full eligibility list).

Key Dates:

- Spring Application Cycle deadline is March 5, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET
(Grant period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)
- Fall Application Cycle deadline is September 3, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET
(Grant period of January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027)

Who to Contact: For more information about the program and how to apply, contact your [Regional Arts Partner](#).

Program Details

Program Goal

To provide Indiana's people and communities access to arts experiences.

Program Outcomes

- In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences[§].
- Historically underserved geographies and populations benefit.

[§ IAC 2024 – 2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact](#)

About Us

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is an agency of state government, and its funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component to the Indiana Arts Commission's commitment to investing in the state's vibrant and rich arts and culture sector are grants, which support people and communities through arts organizations and arts projects.

Program Contacts

This program is jointly conducted by the Indiana Arts Commission and its Regional Arts Partner Network.

Your Regional Arts Partner is your contact for the Arts Project Support Program. Regional Arts Partners (RAPs) work alongside the Indiana Arts Commission to promote and expand participation in the arts in Indiana. They work directly with the Arts Project Support and Arts Organization Support grant programs and can be a source of information on other programs and services offered by the Indiana Arts Commission.

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact the [Regional Arts Partner](#) for your region.
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Contact the IAC Grants team at grantsadmin@iac.in.gov.
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact the IAC at accessibility@iac.in.gov.
- **To apply:** [Access the eligibility tool and application](#). Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations.

Grant Award Amounts, Matching Funds, and Grant Payment

Applicants can request up to \$4,000. No matching funds are required.

Applicants recommended for funding will receive the full amount requested and are eligible to be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period, provided they are in good standing and supply required information in a timely manner. The IAC reserves the right to award payments in two installments as needed.

FY2027 Arts Project Support (APS) Funding Priorities

The IAC will continue to prioritize ensuring geographic access to arts opportunities across the state through funding eligible applications by county. When there are multiple eligible applications per county, the IAC may also consider other factors, such as underserved geographies, project discipline, first-time vs. returning applicants, and applicant budget size in determining funding award recommendations, which are presented to the IAC Commissioners for consideration and approval.

Dates to Know – Arts Project Support Spring Application Cycle
(Grant Period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)†

Program Opens for Applications	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Informational Webinar	Thursday, January 29, 2026, 10:00 a.m. ET (Register to attend.)
Draft Application Review Deadline for New Applicants	Monday, February 23, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET
Application Due	Thursday, March 5, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET* *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Funding Notification	By July 1, 2026
Final Grant Report Due	Thursday, July 15, 2027 by 11:59 p.m. ET

Dates to Know – Arts Project Support Fall Application Cycle
(Grant Period January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027)†

Program Opens for Applications	Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Draft Application Review Deadline for New Applicants	Monday, August 24, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET
Application Due	Thursday, September 3, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET* *Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.
Funding Notification	By December 21, 2026
Final Grant Report Due	Friday, January 14, 2028 by 11:59 p.m. ET

†While there are two application cycles in Fiscal Year 2027, an applicant is only eligible to receive one APS grant per Fiscal Year.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants*

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations in any arts discipline**;
- Other 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities that provide arts programming, such as social service organizations, etc.;
- 501(c)(6) tourism entities or Chambers of Commerce;
- Local units of government;
- Public libraries;
- Public and private schools from pre-kindergarten through high school that provide **either** a public performance, artist residency, teaching artists, or after-school programming;

- Pre-Approved fiscally sponsored entities (see more details in the “Use of a Fiscal Sponsor” section) below; or
- Colleges and universities that provide **either** community arts learning experiences for grades Pre-K through 12 on their home campus or elsewhere **or** arts experiences in **high-priority geographic service counties**. [Learn more about college and university eligibility criteria.](#)

**IAC staff may follow up to request documentation or additional information and will make the final determination on eligibility.*

***Arts Organizations currently receiving an Arts Organization Support grant are not eligible for Arts Project Support*

‡ Counties designated by the IAC based on factors such as a lack of existing arts access or a history of underinvestment

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Nonprofit organizations must be incorporated in the State of Indiana at the time of application and for the duration of the grant period. They must also be physically located in Indiana. The majority of programming, services, or activities must take place in Indiana and serve and engage Indiana audiences and participants.
- All applicants must be in good standing with all of the following: the State of Indiana; the Indiana Arts Commission; the applicant’s Regional Arts Partner; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

APS Eligibility Tool

All new and returning APS applicants are required to first answer questions intended to help determine whether they may be eligible to apply for APS. If an applicant’s responses indicate eligibility, they will be able to access the application.

Use of a Fiscal Sponsor

Unincorporated nonprofit groups planning to produce a project (“project producers”) may submit grant applications to the IAC through a fiscal sponsor. **Pre-approval is required.** Applicants who indicate the use of a fiscal sponsor in the eligibility tool will be directed to contact the IAC before accessing the application. The IAC reserves the authority to determine if an application qualifies as a fiscal sponsor project and if the sponsoring organization qualifies as a fiscal sponsor. [Learn more about fiscal sponsorship here.](#)

Use of Grant Funds

Eligible Uses of the IAC Grant Funds

Arts Project Support (APS) Program grants support eligible expenses of a public-facing short-term arts project or arts activity(ies) which can include artist fees, program supplies, and facility rental. No more than 25% of the IAC grant funds may be applied to administrative overhead. No more than 50% of the IAC grant funds may be applied to capital equipment such as musical instruments, audio equipment, or tools. **This is not an exhaustive list.** The IAC reserves the right to make the final determination of expense eligibility.

Ineligible Uses of IAC Grant Funds

IAC grant funds may not be used on food and beverage (including alcoholic beverages); cash awards or prizes (including gift cards); and fundraising costs and events. **This is not an exhaustive list of ineligible expenses.** [Consult Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information on eligible and ineligible uses of IAC funds.](#)

Evaluation Criteria and Review Process

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on how well they meet the following criteria:

- **Project Quality and Planning** – The extent to which the project provides a quality artistic or cultural experience for the community, and the project timeline is defined and aligned with the project description.
- **Community Benefit** – The extent to which the applicant can describe the community the project will serve; how the community will benefit from the project; and intentional efforts to directly engage underserved populations.
- **Project Management** – The extent to which the project team has relevant skills and knowledge to administer the project; and project spending is aligned with the project description.

[Access the Evaluation Criteria.](#)

[Access the scoring rubric that will be used by application reviewers.](#)

After all applications are reviewed, the IAC will establish a minimum score for funding eligibility.

Draft Review

Draft reviews are available to first-time applicants to the program and organizations that are not currently receiving funds from the IAC. Draft reviews consist of general feedback and suggestions around application completeness and clarity. To request a draft review, notify your Regional Arts Partner by the deadline listed below for the cycle for which you are applying, and they will review your still-in-draft application. **Do not submit your application if you'd like a draft review – leave it in draft for the review.**

Draft Review Deadlines:

- Spring Application Cycle: Monday, February 23, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET
- Fall Application Cycle: Monday, August 24, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET

Final Eligibility Review

After the application deadline, applications undergo an eligibility review to ensure the applicant is eligible for the program and that all required information has been submitted. Incomplete or missing information may deem the application ineligible to advance to the review process.

Application Review

Arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members review and evaluate grant applications based on how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Later, the IAC staff uses reviewer scores and other factors, such as geographic location, in determining funding award recommendations, which are presented to the IAC Commissioners for approval.

The review process is highly competitive, and not all applications are funded.

There will be no panel meetings for the Arts Project Support program. Applicants will have access to reviewers' comments by request after award notifications have been made.

Grant Recipient Requirements

Final Report Requirements

Grantees will be required to report on their activity(ies) at the end of the grant period. This reporting includes qualitative and quantitative information, and an accounting of how the IAC grant funds were used. Collected information is shared with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to determine trends and funding impact. Grantees should be engaged in participant tracking during the activity(ies).

Final grant reports submitted after the due date may be subject to penalties. Review the [Not in Good Standing policy](#) for additional information.

Additional Requirements

Grants from the IAC come with additional requirements, such as acknowledgement of public funding. [Consult Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information.](#)

To Apply

Access the eligibility tool and application at:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Login?urlkey=indianaarts>

Spring Cycle Application Submission Deadline: Thursday, March 5, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET

Fall Cycle Application Submission Deadline: Thursday, September 3, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET