



Informational Webinar America250 Grant Program



November 20, 2025



America250 Grant Program

Program Staff



Miah Michaelsen
Executive Director



Eric Ashby
Director of Programs



America250 Grant Program

Note Regarding Accessibility




If you need accommodations for the grant's guidelines or the application, please get in touch with the IAC's Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@iac.in.gov or at 317-417-2300.

If you need help with captions or accessibility for this webinar, please send a direct message via chat to André Zhang Sonera.




America250 Grant Program

About the Indiana Arts Commission






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

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



Agenda

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1. **About the America250 Grant Program**
 2. **Eligibility**
 3. **Program Timeline**
 4. **Grant Awards, Grantee Requirements and Reporting**
 5. **Grant Evaluation Process and Criteria**
 6. **IAC Online Grant System Demonstration**
 7. **Questions**
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America250 Grant Program

About the Grant Program



In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Indiana Arts Commission is accepting applications for **arts projects in any discipline that celebrate American history and connect participants to it.**

Funding for this grant program comes from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Indiana General Assembly.



America250 Grant Program

About the Grant Program



Program Goals

- Celebrate American History
- Provide Indiana's people and communities access to arts and experiences

Program Outcomes

- Hoosiers celebrate, learn, and reflect on American history through the arts
- Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities[§]

[§]IAC 2024-2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact



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Grant Program Eligibility



Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations in any discipline;
- Other 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities that provide arts programming, such as social service organizations, main streets, etc.;
- Local units of government;
- Public libraries;
- Public and private schools from Pre-K through 12th grade; and
- Colleges and universities



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Grant Program Eligibility



Please Note

- Current organizational grantees of the IAC, excluding those who are fiscally sponsored, are eligible for this opportunity
- Applicants must have a valid Unique Entity Identifies (UEI) through SAM.gov by the application deadline
- Fiscally Sponsored applicants are not eligible
- Arts Organization Support grantees should propose a project not already in their season or part of annual programming to be most competitive



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Grant Program Eligibility



Additional Eligibility Requirements

- Nonprofit organizations must be incorporated with the State of Indiana at the time of application and for the duration of the grant period
- Organizations 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



America250 Grant Program

Program Timeline

Program Milestone	Date
Program Opens for Applications	Thursday, November 13, 2025
Application Due	Monday, December 15, 2025 by 11:59 PM ET*
Funding Notification	By Monday, February 16, 2026
Grant Period	March 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
Final Grant Report Due	Friday, January 15, 2027 by 11:59 PM ET

*Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.

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About the Grant Awards



Current Award Amount

- Applicants may request up to \$5,000

Matching Funds

- No matching funds required

Grant Payment

- 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 issued via direct deposit

Estimated Number of Applications Funded

- ~12 Applications



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Grantee Requirements

- All applicants must be in good standing with the following:
 - The State of Indiana
 - The Indiana Arts Commission; and
 - The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
- Grantee must follow the full requirements as outlined in the program guidelines, the grant contract, and the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees
- Publicly acknowledge funding support through the use of IAC and NEA logos and other forms of acknowledgement
- Enter a binding contract with the State of Indiana


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Grantee Requirements

- Ensure grant funds are used only for eligible expenses
 - Food and beverage, cash awards and prizes, and fundraising are not eligible expenses (see IAC Requirements and Policies for full list)
 - IAC reserves the right to request documentation of grant expenditures and may conduct spot audits to ensure expense eligibility and policy compliance
 - IAC may request a site visit to learn more about the funded project and use of funding
- Monitor record retention and tax responsibilities
 - Grantees must keep all grant-related records for three years from the date of submission of the final report
- Grantee must follow the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements and Federal Civil Rights and all other relevant state/federal laws and policies

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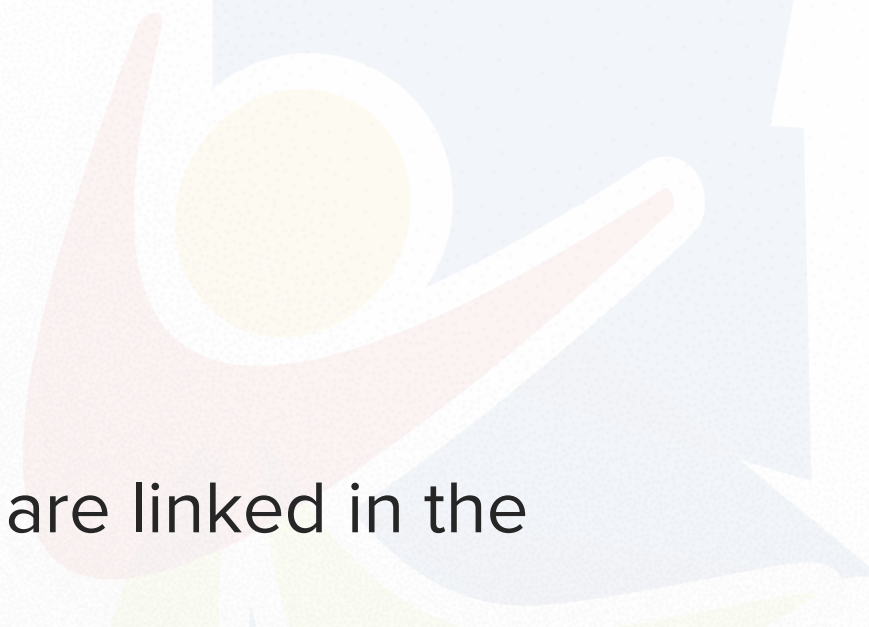
Reporting Requirements

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- All grantees submit a final report covering topics including but not limited to:
 - Number of people served
 - Location of activities/services
 - Grant impact
 - Final project budget including use of funds



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Evaluation Process

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- Applications will be evaluated by how well they meet the criteria
 - Evaluation criteria include:
 - Artistic Quality
 - America250 Celebration and Connection
 - Project Management and Feasibility
 - Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric are linked in the guidelines and the application
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Evaluation Criteria

||| The extent to which the project:

Artistic Quality

- Demonstrates artistic excellence
- Demonstrates artistic merit

America250 Celebration & Connection

- Celebrates American history
- Connects its intended audience to American history

Project Management & Feasibility

- Details spending aligned with the project description
- Provides a defined and feasible timeline for project activities



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Application Sections

- **Section 1**: Before You Begin – (info links, tips, deadlines)
- **Section 2**: Project Overview – (Project type, dates)
- **Section 3**: Artistic Quality –
(Project description, Artistic Personnel, Documentation*)
- **Section 4**: America250 Celebration and Connection –
(American history celebration, project audience, and outcomes)
- **Section 5**: Project Management and Feasibility –
(Budget, Timeline)

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IAC Online Grant System

- All applications are submitted through the IAC Online Grant System
- Applicants must create an account and be logged in to fill out and complete an application

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IAC Online Grant System



Britt Fechtman

Data & Grant Systems Manager



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Recommendations



■ Before you start

- Review the America250 Guidelines in full
- Review the America250 Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric
- Review the entire application

■ As you complete the application

- Be clear and thorough
- Answer every question
- Provide details to support claims and key narrative points
- Avoid assumptions that application reviewers already know the organization or project



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Program Contacts

- For any program question, contact the IAC team at grantsadmin@iac.in.gov
- For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project, reach out to accessibility@iac.in.gov

Questions?

