

Program Overview

What is Every County Funded: The Every County Funded (ECF) community-based arts program is designed to increase access to arts funding for all Hoosiers by providing invitation-only grant funding that directly serves counties where there is little to no state arts funding.

Who Can Apply: Invited 501(c)3 organizations (economic development corporation, arts council, etc.), local or county units of government, and libraries are eligible for this program. Invitation-only and open to the following counties: **Blackford, Lawrence, Parke, Newton, Rush, Washington, White.**

Key Dates:

Deadline to Submit – Friday, February 20, 2026 at 11:59 PM ET

Grant Period – June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

Final Report Due – Tuesday, June 15, 2027

Who to Contact: Anne Johansson, Community Services Manager, ajohansson@iac.in.gov

Program Details

Program Goal

The goal of this program is to fund two eligible projects in each county identified as an Every County Funded county.

Every County Funded is designed to:

- Identify allies, partners and stakeholders in counties interested in bringing the arts to life in their community
- Provide communities with funding and technical support for creative initiatives
- Provide a simple process from which all can easily succeed and grow
- Connect communities through an informal cohort model

Program Outcomes

- In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences. §
- Indiana's arts providers have expanded opportunities to enhance the quality of life in their communities. §

- There is broad recognition of arts and creativity's value for Indiana. §

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

Grant Award Amounts, Matching Funds and Grant Payment Information

Applicants may request up to \$5,000 in grant funding. No matching funds are required. Every County Funded grantees are eligible to be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period, provided grantees are in good standing and supply required information in a timely manner. Please note that funds may take 90 days to deposit.

Project Examples

The **Every County Funded** community-based arts grant program allows communities to increase access to the arts for people in the county. These projects should be based locally and include an opportunity that is open to the public. Previous projects that have been supported include activities such as:

Arts-Based Learning

- Example: Ongoing arts/performing arts classes or workshops that are open to the public for any age. Workshops employ local artists to support community and economic development.
- Example: A local 4-H club may wish to bring in a ceramic artist to provide a series of weekly classes for youth, resulting in a community exhibition that is open to the public and entries into the county fair.

Public Art or Creative Placemaking

- Example: Creating a mural that documents the history of your town and inviting local students to be involved in the painting process under the guidance of the mural artist.
- Example: Hosting a concert series that is free and open to the public, featuring a variety of musical acts. This series is in combination with existing events, such as festivals or annual town celebrations.

Creative Interventions to Enhance Quality of Life

- Example: Providing arts-based classes at your library to support mental health and wellbeing of teenagers.
- Example: Increasing access to arts programs for people with disabilities by purchasing adaptive art supplies (e.g. paint brush grips, wheelchair accessible chalk tools, magnifying glasses) and hosting an inclusive event.

These project examples are not exhaustive or the only type of project allowed in Every County Funded. Applicants are encouraged to think creatively about how to provide arts experiences in their communities.

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

The following information outlines primary contacts for the grant program:

- **For questions about application, eligibility, and guidelines:** Contact Anne Johansson, ajohansson@iac.in.gov or 317-618-1522
- **For help or technical assistance with the Online Grant System:** Contact Austin Hendricks, auhendricks@iac.in.gov or 317-450-6717
- **For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project:** Contact the Indiana Arts Commission, accessibility@iac.in.gov or 317-232-1269
- **To apply:** [Access the application](#). Only applications submitted online will be accepted, except in the case of ADA accessibility accommodations. Navigate to the Apply page and use the access code: **ECF2026**

Dates to Know – Every County Funded Application Cycle (Grant Period June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027)

| Milestone | Date | Details |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Application Period | December 17, 2025 – February 20, 2026 | Application available in IAC online system |
| Project Development Draft Review (optional) | January 19–30, 2026 | One-on-one sessions with IAC staff to strengthen project plans |
| Project Proposal Deadline | February 20, 2026 (11:59 PM ET) | All materials must be submitted by this time |
| Award Notification | March 13, 2026 | Applicants notified of project proposal acceptance |
| Grant Period Begins | June 1, 2026 | Projects may begin implementation (funds may take 90 days to arrive) |
| Grantee Cohort Coaching | Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 1:00 PM ET | Virtual |
| Grantee Cohort Coaching | Tuesday, December 8, 2026, 1:00 PM ET | Virtual |
| Grantee Cohort Coaching | Tuesday, March 9, 2027, 1:00 PM ET | Virtual |
| Grant Period Ends | May 31, 2027 | All funded activities must be completed by this date |
| Final Grant Report Due | Tuesday, June 15, 2027, at 11:59 PM ET | |

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Eligible Applicants*

IRS-approved tax-exempt organizations (economic development corporation, arts council, etc.), local or county units of government, libraries. Applications are by invitation and eligible to counties that have received no IAC funding in the preceding fiscal year. Eligibility for this program is fluid as communities move on and off the target list between fiscal years.

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

NOTE: An applicant may not use funding from two different IAC grant programs to support a single project

Additional Eligibility Requirements

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.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated for completeness, feasibility, evidence of sound project planning, and community impact. IAC Staff will work directly with applicants on proposal drafts prior to final application submission. [Read the full evaluation criteria.](#)

Final Eligibility Review

Post application deadline, applications receive a final eligibility review to ensure the applicant is eligible to apply for the program and all required information is submitted. Incomplete or missing information may deem the application ineligible to advance for funding.

[Consult the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for eligibility information.](#)

Grant Recipient Requirements

Final Report Requirements

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

Please keep track of the following for your final grant report:

- What occurred and the outcomes because of the funding (narrative/multiple choice)

- A participant quote that captures the project experience
- Address(es) where the activity(ies) occurred
- Number of participants by age and group (adults, children, and artists)
- Photo documentation of the project
- Actual cash income, actual cash expenses, and in-kind contributions. **A detail of expenditures will be required.**

Additional Requirements

IAC grants come with additional requirements such as acknowledgement of public funding, compliance with applicable state and federal law and policies, and other requirements.

[Consult the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees for additional information on requirements of grantees.](#)

Final grant reports submitted after the due date may be subject to penalty. Read the [Not in Good Standing policy](#).

Application Information

Application Checklist

Identify who will be responsible for accessing the IAC's online grant system to complete and submit the proposal and final grant report

1. Identify who will be responsible for signing the grant contract and receiving, managing, and dispersing funds for the project. This is the authorized signatory for your grant contract.
2. Develop the project proposal components. Having an understanding of the project proposal components in advance will help you answer application questions. The application is located in the IAC's online grant system.

Project Proposal Components

1. Project Summary – write a brief (3-5 sentence) summary of your community-based arts project and what you will use the grant to support.
2. Project Importance:
 - a. Outline why the project is important in your community right now.
 - b. Briefly describe the change you hope to make as a result of your project and who will benefit.
3. What are the ways you plan to engage your community throughout the project and make activities open to the public?
4. What's your project budget? Be sure to include the grant request in the income section.
5. How will you evaluate your project?

How to Apply

1. Log in to the [IAC's online grant system](#). Once logged in, go to the apply page (use the access code: **ECF2026**) to access and complete the project proposal application. Submit when finished.
 - a. IAC staff will review your project proposal and may be in touch to request revisions.
 - b. IAC will notify you if your project is approved for funding.
2. If funded, log in to the IAC's online grant portal to accept the award.
3. Complete the state contracting process.
4. Start your project!

Proposals Due: February 20, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. ET