

IMPORTANT:

*Grants are awarded on a cost-reimbursement basis

*Applicants may reapply for continued funding annually on a competitive basis, for up to four years

*Continued funding is not guaranteed from year to year



Applications are due
July 31, 2026

Indiana Office of Court Services

Court Improvement Program Notice of Funding Availability

The Indiana Court Improvement Program (CIP) is offering grant funding for the **October 1, 2026-September 30, 2027**, funding cycle to help applicants improve safety, timely permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families involved in Children in Need of Services (CHINS), Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and Dual Status cases.

Funding Source

Funding for the CIP grant program is available from the Indiana Supreme Court through a grant provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children & Families under the provision of the State Court Improvement Program-Catalog of Federal Assistance (CFDA) # 93.586. Awards made under this notice are subject to the availability of federal funding.

Funding Priorities

Priority consideration will be given to courts proposing programs/projects geared towards safely reducing the time to permanency or addressing one or more [Court Performance Measures](#) that are not in compliance with national and state standards.

Eligible Applicants

- Indiana courts exercising jurisdiction over Children in Need of Services (CHINS), Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), and Dual Status cases ([see Ind. Code § 31-41](#))
- Indiana legal services agencies, and nonprofit organizations providing legal assistance to clients involved in the child welfare system.
 - Organizations in this category must submit a letter of support from the court that will benefit from the project.

Purpose Areas

System Improvements

Innovative programs/projects intended to improve the court process for handling CHINS, TPR, or Dual Status cases and/or that are intended to improve safety, timely permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families. Programs/projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- New and emerging child welfare programs/projects that further the goals listed in funding priorities above
- Mediation in CHINS or TPR cases
- Programs/projects aimed at removing barriers to permanency, improving time to permanency, or improving permanency outcomes for families and children

Data Collection and Analysis

Programs/projects intended to improve CHINS and TPR proceedings using a data-informed approach. Programs/projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to projects aimed at:

- Improving the collection of child welfare data and/or outcomes
- Developing child welfare data collection infrastructure
- Developing tools necessary for data sharing among child welfare stakeholders
- Adopting and implementing court performance measures for CHINS and TPR cases
- Evaluating current CHINS/TPR-related programs/projects
- Evaluating strategies to help identify reforms to improve child welfare outcomes

Training

Education programs to increase child welfare expertise within the legal community or facilitate cross-training opportunities between DCS, courts, and other stakeholders involved in the child welfare system. Programs/projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to projects that:

- increase judicial and attorney knowledge and expertise
- provide cross-training with multidisciplinary stakeholders in child welfare matters (i.e., court personnel, DCS staff, Parent and children attorneys, GAL/CASAs, probation officers, and community stakeholders)
- Provide child welfare-related training programs and materials

Grant Information

- Grants are awarded on a cost-reimbursement basis
- Awards are granted for one year on an October 1st -September 30th funding cycle. Each year thereafter, applicants may apply for continuation of funding on a competitive basis for up to four years. **Continued funding from year to year is not guaranteed.**

Match (Cost-Sharing) Requirement

Funds awarded under the Indiana CIP may not constitute more than 75 percent (75%) of the total program cost. Therefore, a 25 percent (25%) match derived from non-federal sources is required. For example, a 25% match on a \$13,400 program/project would be \$3,400, where \$10,000 is provided by CIP using federal funds and \$3,400 is provided by the grantee.

To meet federal program standards, the required match must be made concurrent with and in proportion to the use of grant funds. **Supporting documentation such as paid invoices, timesheets and the documented value of in-kind services must be provided with each request for reimbursement to verify the amount of match provided.**

The match may be in the form of cash, in-kind contribution, or both. Funds eligible to be used as a match share among other things:

- Must be verifiable
- Must not be federal funds
- Must not be used to match any other federal grant
- Must be used for the project/program proposed in the application
- May originate from a third party, public or private

Application Submission Information

To request an application, email cip@courts.in.gov. Applications will be provided upon request and should be submitted via email to cip@courts.in.gov no later than **4:00 p.m. EDT on July 31, 2026**.

Applicants are encouraged to allow adequate time to complete the application process once received. While time may vary by applicant, please plan for approximately 1–2 hours to review, complete, and submit the necessary materials.

Review and Selection Process

When making funding decisions, a grant review team considers:

- Demonstration of need
- Adequate correlation between the cost of the program/project and the goal(s) to be achieved
- Probability of program/project to meet identified goal(s) and objectives
- Overall description of the intended use of the grant funds
- Demonstration that the applicant has met the local match requirements
- Overall quality of the application
- Performance on previous grants received from the Indiana Supreme Court
- Quality and feasibility of the sustainability plan
- Quality of data used to implement and evaluate the program/project
- Reporting history; continued programs must be current on reporting and program requirements as of the grant review period. CIP will review the status of ongoing programs and make award recommendations based on the status of the program/project

CIP may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested

Award Notification

Notification will be emailed to the authorizing official and point of contact listed in the application. If the application is approved, the email will include detailed instructions on how to accept the award and how to access grant funds. Applicants may be asked to submit an adjusted budget if the amount awarded is less than the amount requested, or otherwise upon request of the CIP.

Additional Terms & Requirements

- General Grant Agreement
- Special Conditions for Court Improvement Program (CIP) funds